



REVIEWED: iLIFE '05—OUR EXPERTS ARE MERCILESS!

104
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2005

MacAddict

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Inside the Mac mini

- * **Torture-Tested!**
- * **Reviewed & Rated!**
- * **Disassembled
& Explained!**

**How can a Mac so small
and cheap be so powerful?
C'mon inside—we'll show you!**



SNAPSHOT PRINTER SHOOTOUT

We test
five top
mini-printers.



HOW TO:

- Hack Your iPod's Interface
- Surf the Web at Light Speed
- Control Your Mac from a Cell Phone
- Blog in Ten Minutes or Less

REVIEWED:

NIKON COOLPIX 4800 ➔

- Epson Stylus Photo R320
- World of Warcraft
- QuarkXPress 6.5
- Mathematica 5.1 ...and 13 more



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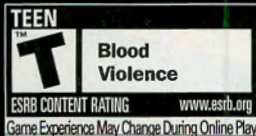
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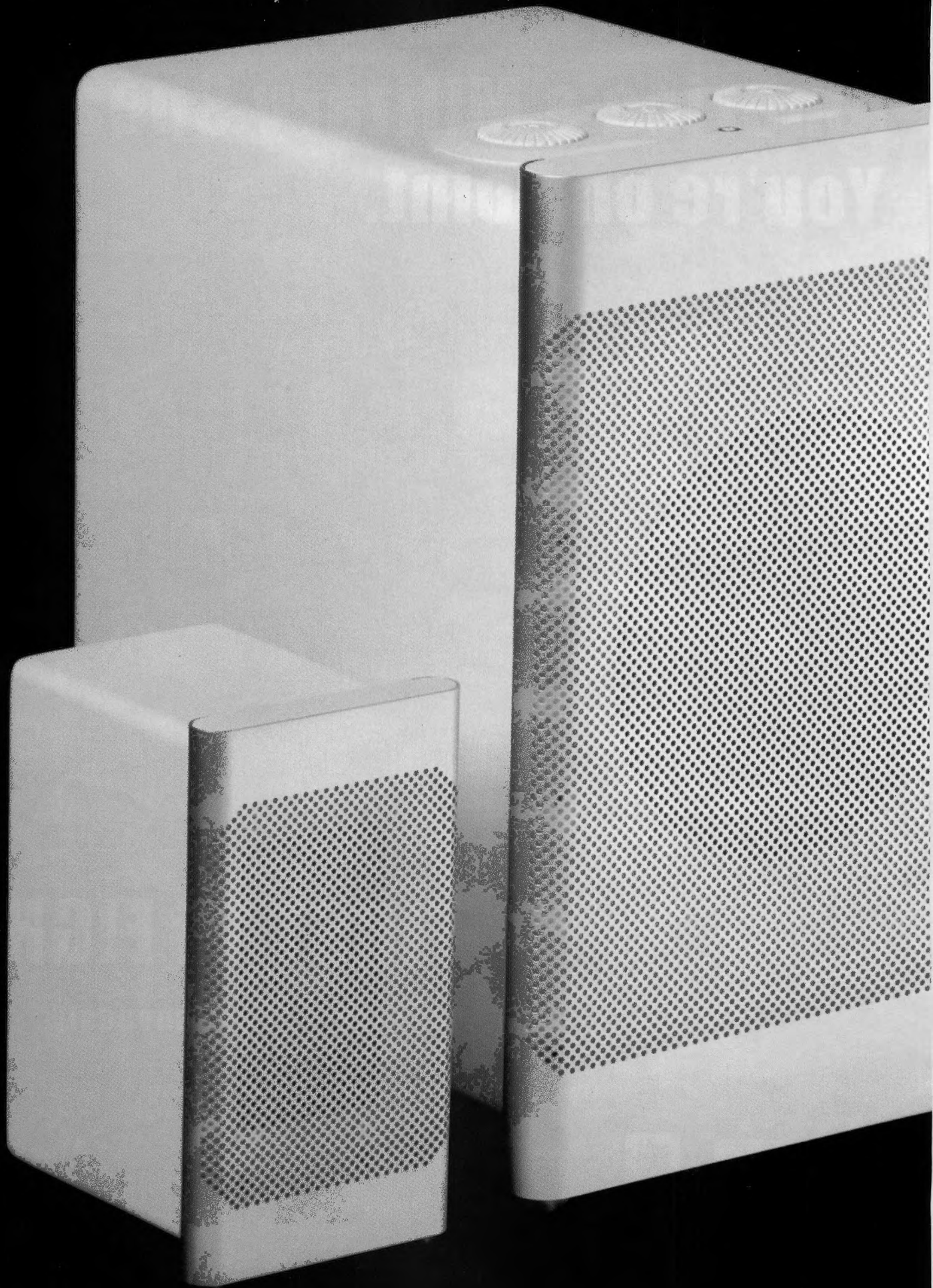
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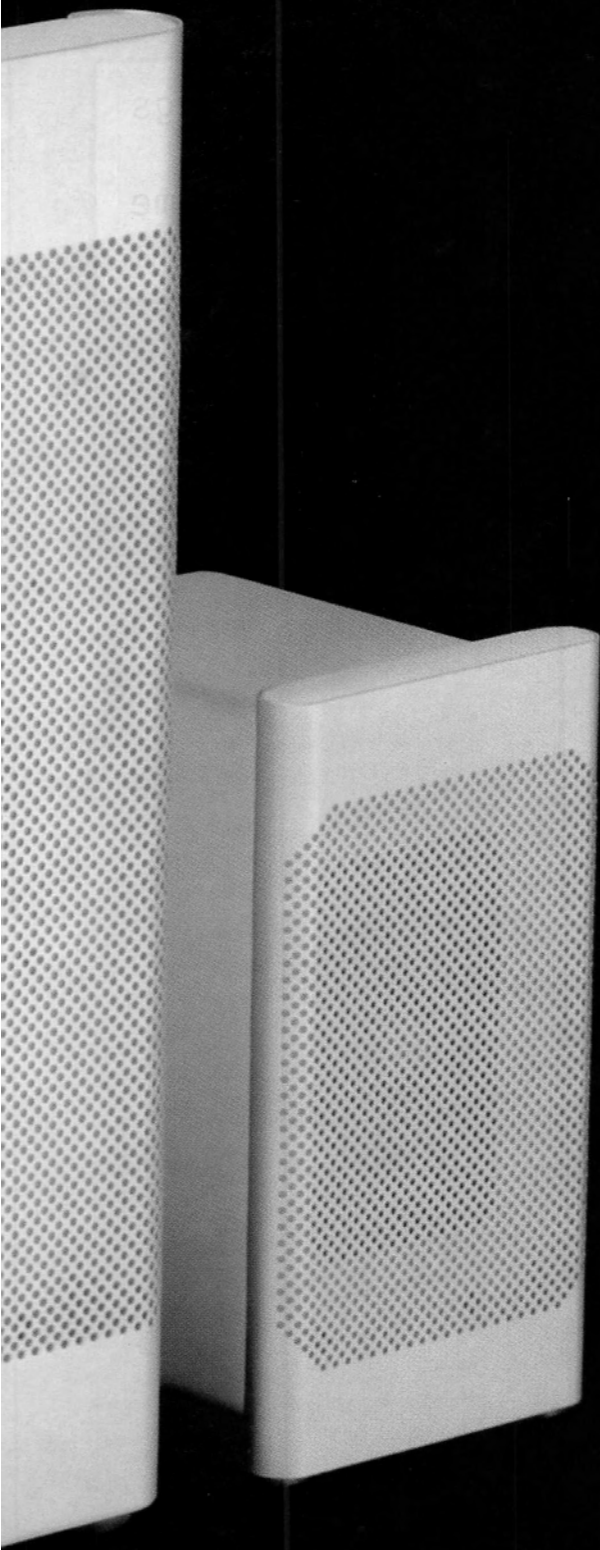
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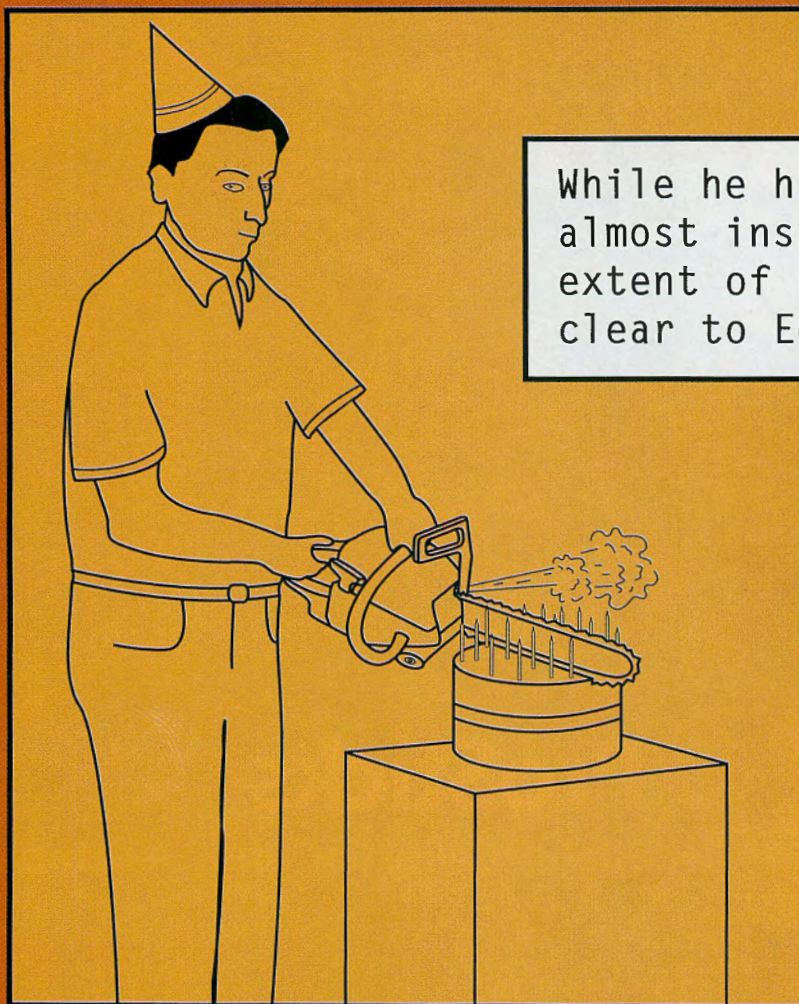




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"I have a feeling I'm going to live in this program..." - PC World, January 2005



MacAddict

COVER ART BY OLIVER WOLFSON

features

19 Inside the Mac mini

The Mac mini is here—and it's the most important Mac to emerge from Cupertino since the Bondi Blue iMac back in '98. Come along with us as we test it to within an inch of its life and then pop it open to reveal its inner beauty. **by Roman Loyola and Niko Coucouvanis**

24 Snapshot Printer A-Go-Go!

Digital cameras are great, but sometimes you need a quick 4 by 6 print to send to relatives. Find out which of the new small-size photo printers give grandma-worthy results. **by Niko Coucouvanis**



30 April Fools!

Coworkers getting too comfortable? Give 'em something to worry about with this year's April Fools' Day tricks. **by Jack Miller**

how to

50 Ask Us

Mail, mail, who's got the mail? We show you how to migrate your Netscape messages from Mac OS 9 to OS X, change your default email client, and even teach iPhoto which client to use. Plus, iChat with your PC-mired friends, make a new Page Setup default, and geek out on *symbolic links*—file aliases, Unix-style.

52 Hack Your iPod's Interface

Whether you call it personalization or sacrilege, customizing your iPod's graphical-interface icons is your 'Pod-given right. We show you how easy it is to change those icons—and their text labels, as well. **by Niko Coucouvanis**



55 Control Your Mac from a Bluetooth Cell Phone

You've always wanted to use your Bluetooth cell phone as a remote control for your Mac. Now you can. **by Noah Tsutsui**



56 Blog in Ten Minutes or Less

Don't know MySQL from squid ink? Listen up. **by Chris Barylick**

58 Beautify Your Blog

You don't need mad CSS and PHP skills to personalize your blog. **by Mary Tyler**

60 Surf the Web, Terminal Style

When you want Web info and you want it fast, surf tuff with Lynx. It's pure text, baby. **by Johnathon Williams**



every month

10 Editors' Page

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder—especially if the beholder is beholding a Mac mini motherboard.

12 Get Info

Find out what Apple has been up to with its Xserve and Xsan enterprise products, and get a few tips on setting up a Mac mini as a server. Also, learn how to work around some of the iPod shuffle's quirks, post your unwanted goods on eBay without the fuss and muss, connect Sony's PlayStation Portable (PSP) to your Mac, and read about the latest developments in productivity software.

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- 40 **World of Warcraft** *massively multiplayer online game*

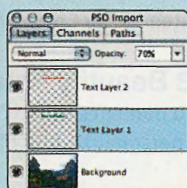
49 The Hot List

We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.

QUICK TIPS FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

→ LAYER LIMITS

The QuarkXPress 6.5 update lets you import native Adobe Photoshop files into a layout and manipulate layers, channels, and paths. However, Photoshop files with layer effects are flattened during import—you can't modify their layers or paths. **From Reviews, p38.**



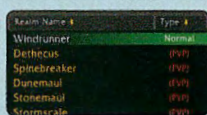
→ MOVE IT OR LOSE IT

Don't like the order of your icons in the Finder window's Sidebar? Move 'em! Just click and drag the icons into your desired order. **From Ask Us, p50.**



→ WARCRAFT BUDDIES

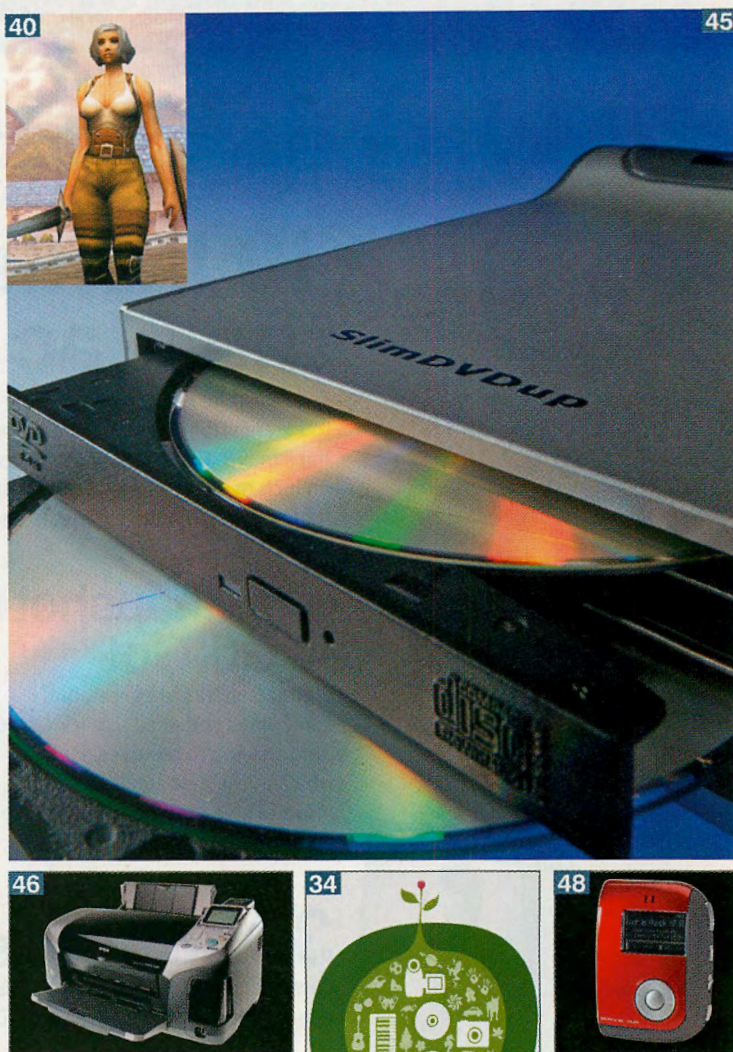
If you want to play World of Warcraft



with your friends, make sure you're all on the same server. You can't transfer your character between servers. **From Reviews, p40.**

→ IN THEIR FACES

Make April Fools' Day unforgettable by replacing your victim's soothing screen saver with a loud, disturbing movie—of yourself. **From "April Fools," p30.**



78 Log Out

78 Letters

Are we all turning into 'Pod people? Also, Ann Coulter (under pseudonym Bill Sphar) infers that our editor in chief's "liberal mantras" are better suited to the former Soviet Union.

79 Contest

Win a dozen Aspyr games! You'll have to turn to page 79 to find out which ones 'cause the list is too long to print here.

80 Shut Down

Take a sneak peek at the 2006-model iPod shuffle.



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the disc

This month's Disc will help you get down to business with a toolbox full of productivity and utility apps, and then wind down with a gaggle of fun stuff—a full 62 apps in all. What are you waiting for? Get down!

104 MacAddict

GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

MacBusiness * redlienAccountExecutive

theDisc
April 2005

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MacAddict

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EDITOR IN CHIEF **Rik Myslewski**
MANAGING EDITOR **Sean Molloy**
FEATURES EDITOR **Jake Widman**
HOW-TO EDITOR **Niko Coucouvanis**
REVIEWS EDITOR **Roman Loyola**
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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **David Bledny, Joseph O. Holmes, Helmut Kobler, Cathy Lu, Steven Parke, Ian Sammis, Deborah Shadovitz, Andrew Tokuda, Buz Zoller**

ART

ART DIRECTOR **Mark Rosenthal**
ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR **Peter Marshutz**
PHOTOGRAPHER **Mark Madero**
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER **Samantha Berg**

BUSINESS

PUBLISHER **Chris Coelho**
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Bernie Lanigan, 212-768-2966 x4001**
EASTERN ADVERTISING MANAGER **Anthony Danzi, 646-723-5453**
EASTERN ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **Dave Lynn, 949-360-4443**
WESTERN ADVERTISING MANAGER **Stacey Levy, 925-964-1205**
NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER **Nate Hunt, 415-656-8536**
SENIOR ACCOUNTS MANAGER, DIRECT SALES **Ana Epstein, 415-656-8416**
MARKETING MANAGER **Kathleen Reilly**
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR **Jose Urrutia, 415-656-8313**

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR **Richard Lesovoy**
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **Larry Briseno**

CIRCULATION

GROUP CIRCULATION DIRECTOR **Amy Leder**
NEWSSTAND MARKETING MANAGER **Bill Shewey**
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FUTURE NETWORK USA
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30 Monmouth St., Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW, England
www.futureplc.com
Tel +44 1225 442244

NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: **Roger Parry**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE: **Greg Ingham**
GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR: **John Bowman**
Tel +44 1225 442244

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Space Tripper 1.84 shareware

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VLC Media Player 0.8.1

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SaveHollywood 1.7

INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

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Staff Video: Mac Expo 2005

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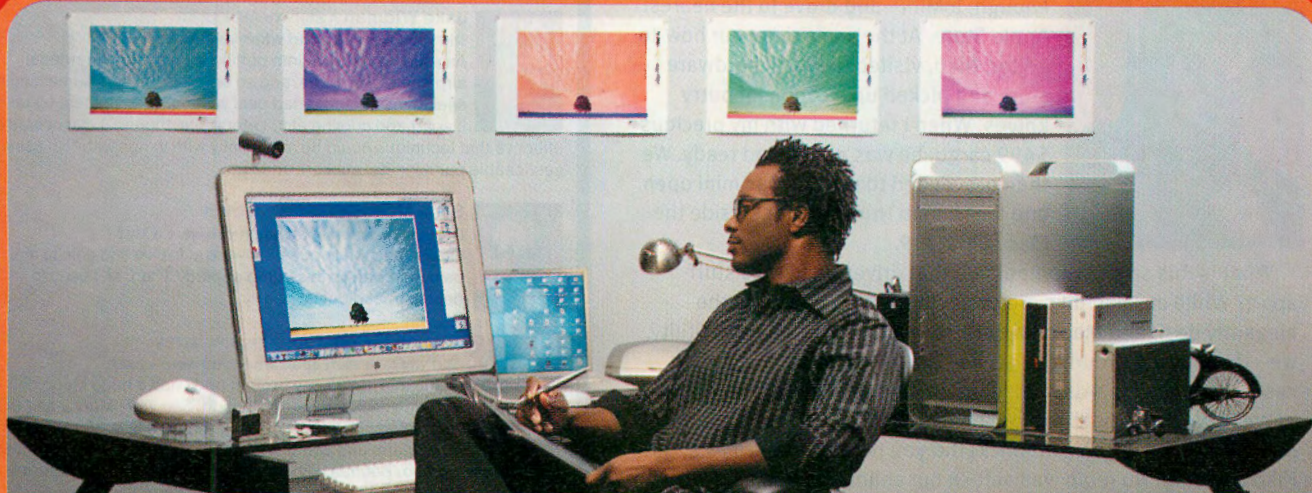


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Inner Beauty



So I hopped into my car—appropriately enough, a Mini—and drove to the nearest Apple Store. At the same time, our how-to editor, Niko, visited the local hardware store and picked up a couple of putty knives. When I returned with my precious \$499 cargo, he was armed and ready. We then proceeded to pry the Mac mini open and tear it limb from limb for “Inside the Mac mini,” p19.

What is this strange compulsion that drives us to take stuff apart? While normal folks are perfectly content to admire the elegantly designed Mac mini and enjoy it for its beauty and utility, we—the few, the proud, the geeks—are driven to crack open its case, unbolt its innards, and learn its hidden secrets.

We’re willing to bet that you, being a Mac addict, carry the same inquisitive monkey on your back. Did you take stuff apart as a kid? Niko and I did. No radio was safe in our childhood homes. No alarm clock could survive our probing screwdrivers—especially after we learned that a clock spring, once sprung, is impossible to return to its formerly coiled effectiveness. (Please don’t tell my dad!)

Design is design is design.

I believe that the desire to plumb the electronic entrails of a complex piece of engineering is fueled by both curiosity (how does that work?) and pure aesthetics (that looks so cool!). Yes, to us geeks, well-designed motherboards and heat sinks are sculptures capable of inspiring an artistic high comparable to that induced by a sweeping Richard Serra arch or an intricately detailed box construction by Joseph Cornell. Seriously.

While I’m dropping names, let me paraphrase Gertrude Stein and declare that “design is design is design.” And when it’s fully successful, design crosses over into art—whether the object of that design is wholly utilitarian or purely aesthetic.

Apple’s industrial-design team is justly praised for the company’s elegant offerings. Those of us who take Apple’s products apart know that its engineering team includes artists, as well—as Niko and I were reminded when we took apart the Mac mini to both discover its secrets and revel in its well-ordered complexity.

But we still can’t figure out what that damn Chiclet-sized 4.7-ohm resistor is doing sitting there smack dab in the middle of the motherboard. If you know, please tell Niko. It’s driving his inner geek crazy.

Enjoy, *R.k*

coming soon: may 2005

Here’s what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

We’ll unlock **the hidden powers of iLife '05** and show you how to get each app to do what you want *right now*. We’ll also take a hands-on look at **ergonomic keyboards**—with tips on a wide range of ergonomic issues—and demystify the growing **menagerie of media cards**. We’ll teach you how to **play alien video files** such as WMV, AVI, and Real in QuickTime Player, use Skype to **add voice chat to online gaming**, **prep your PowerBook for vacation**, and **boost your broadband connection**. Reviews? How ’bout **iWork '05**, Eovia’s **Carrara 4**, palmOne’s **Treo 650**, and a whole lot more.

STAFF RANTS

Q. Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?



Jake Widman A SERVICEABLE USER

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

As a kid, I was more into putting things together: model airplanes, chemicals, and so on. I think I was traumatized by seeing my engineer dad deal with balky equipment by taking it apart and cursing at it. Later in life, though, I discovered how effective that technique could be, especially with things with “No user-serviceable parts inside” stickers on them.



Sean Molloy VERSE VIVISECTOR

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

Only if the stuff in question were still alive and able to feel pain—oh wait, is this being printed? Then, er, I used to deconstruct didactic poetry.



Roman Loyola YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

In the mid-1970s, my brother and I had a huge Mego doll—er, I mean action figure—collection: *Star Trek*, Marvel and DC characters, *Happy Days*, and more. We used to take apart the body parts and costumes and interchange them. My favorite combo: Batman with Mr. Spock’s head and The Fonz’s arms and hands, which were in a permanent state of thumbs up. Heyyy!



Peter Marshutz SIBLING SMITER

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

One drum set, a tricycle, a bicycle, my father’s carburetor, and, uh, “accidentally,” my sister’s forehead with a rock.



Niko Coucouvanis LOOSE NUT BEHIND THE KEYBOARD

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

Not so much after my dad walked in on me trying to turn my battery-powered toy speedboat into an AC-powered one using a frayed cord from an old lamp. Well, I guess that didn’t really stop my meddlesome tinkering—it just made me get sneakier about it.



Mark Rosenthal MR. WRENCH

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

I loved to take apart my bicycle, right down to the bearing cups. I’d feel a great pride when I got it all back together, clean as a whistle. That is until, some days afterward, I’d discover several bearings hiding in the shag of my bedroom carpet, laughing at me.

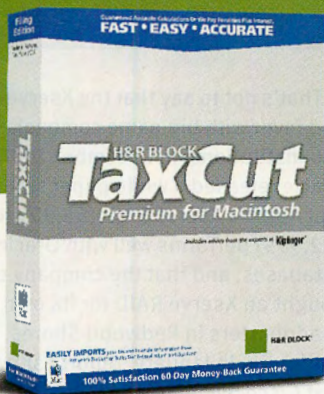


Max Ticonderoga Tyke

Did you take stuff apart when you were a kid?

Back when I was a mere sketch, I used to grab my cartoonist’s favorite Dixon Ticonderoga 1388-2/HB Medium Soft Lead pencil whenever he stepped out for a cuppa joe and apply its pink eraser nubbin—held tightly, of course, in Ticonderoga’s signature green and yellow ferrule—to whatever suited my fancy. Often my own feet, actually, so I could enjoy falling over.

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The afterglow of Apple's January product announcements (see "Think Big (get small)," Mar/05, p16) has faded with time. But although the target audience of Apple's latest products is the general consumer, Apple's also making strides in the enterprise sector. (No, we're not talking starship components for the next Star Trek movie; *enterprise* is jargon for a large organization, usually a business or educational institution.) Apple made some enterprising news before Mac Expo, proving that the company still considers the enterprise market important, even if products such as the iPod shuffle, Mac mini, iWork '05, and iLife '05 get all the oohs and aahs.

MACS IN THE ENTERPRISE

Apple Makes Moves for Big Business

XSERVE G5

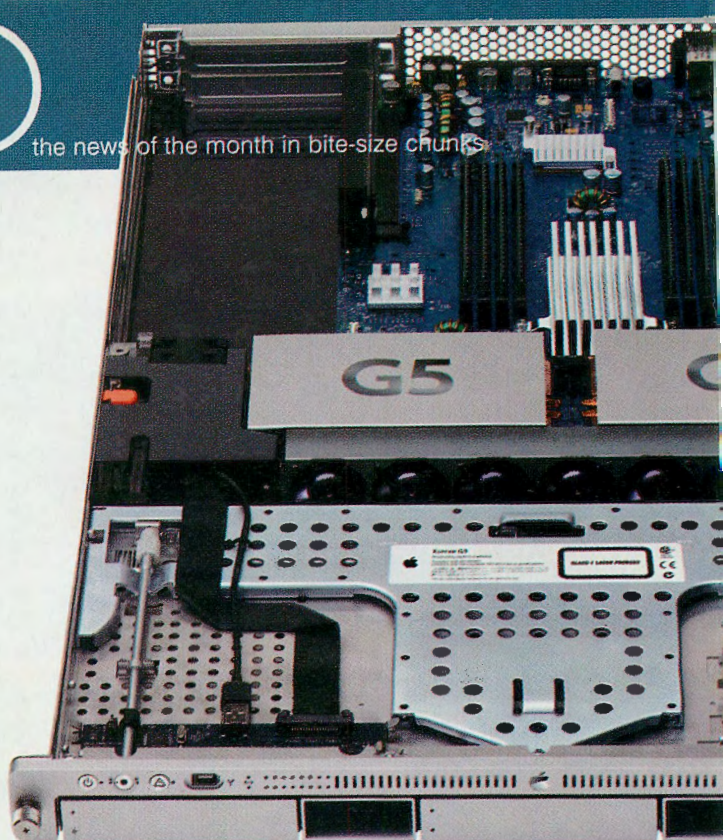
A week before Mac Expo, Apple released its latest **Xserve G5** (\$3,999, www.apple.com), now with dual 2.3GHz PowerPC G5 processors, two 1.15GHz frontside buses (one per processor), 1GB ECC (error-correcting code) memory (8GB max), a single 80GB Serial-ATA hard drive (with support for up to 1.2TB in three drive bays), two built-in 10/100/1000Base-T RJ-45 network connectors, two FireWire 800 ports, one FireWire 400 port, two USB 2.0 ports, one DB-9 (RS-232) serial port, and two full-length 64-bit PCI-X slots. There's also a single-processor Xserve (\$2,999), which has a 2GHz

Forget the Mac mini—the Xserve is Apple's Mac maxi.

PowerPC G5 processor and a 1GHz frontside bus.

According to a report by the Gartner research group, Xserve G5 servers are finally catching on. Between the second quarter of 2003 and the second quarter of 2004, sales increased 119 percent. While that's an impressive increase (thanks in part to the ever-mounting security frustrations with Windows servers), the numbers need to be put into perspective before you shout, "Apple totally rules! Watch out, Microsoft!" Gartner says that Apple sold approximately 11,150 of the 13,000 Xserve G5 servers that they shipped in the third quarter of 2004; during that same quarter, Hewlett-Packard, *el numero uno* in the server market, sold 466,000 units. Yikes.

That's not to say that the Xserve can't find favor with big-name companies and institutions. In December 2004, Oracle released a white paper stating that Apple's Xserve RAID (\$5,999 to \$12,999) performs well with Oracle databases, and that the company even bought an Xserve RAID for its own headquarters in Redwood Shores, California. In January, reports showed that Cisco Systems, the networking giant, installed Xserve, Xserve RAID, and Xsan (more on Xsan later) for an email archive system. There's also the Virginia Tech System X supercomputer (see *Get Info*, Dec/04, p12), Louisiana State University's Center Nemeaux computing cluster, and the recently announced University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



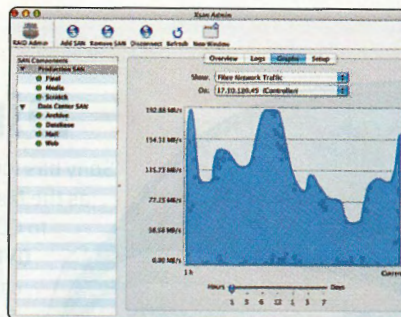
Inside the Xserve, Apple's mucho-macho enterprise server.

Turing Xserve cluster. Most large institutions don't rely on a single platform for their server needs; often, several different platforms are used. But it's clear that Apple is getting serious consideration for enterprise deployment.

XSAN

At the National Association of Broadcasters show in April 2004, Apple released **Xsan** (\$999 per client and server) at the same time

it released the new Xserve G5. Xsan is a high-performance Storage Area Network (SAN) file system that works over Fibre Channel. With Xsan, you can have up to 16TB of storage available on



That's not a wonky digital-image histogram—it's an Xsan Fibre Network Traffic graph.

a network, and up to 64 computers on the SAN can simultaneously read and write to shared storage.

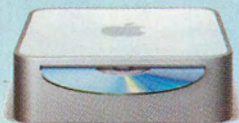
Xsan's release at NAB emphasized Apple's targeting of video-production pros. For studios using Final Cut HD, Xsan can help carry the load of high-definition video. Bandwidth can be managed based on priority, and storage restrictions can be placed on users as well as projects.

—Roman Loyola

MAKE A MAC MINI SERVER

A small- or medium-size business might consider using the Mac mini as a server. Here are a few pointers.

Add RAM. Apple continues to give its stock RAM short shrift—256MB just isn't enough for decent performance. Adding 512MB adds \$75 to your price; 1GB adds \$325 (down from \$455 when the Mac mini was originally announced). You can try to add the RAM yourself, since you can find RAM at cheaper prices and there are tons of Web tutorials about how to open the Mac mini—but if you break something when your mini's open, the repair costs come out of your own pocket. Also remember: There's only one 184-pin DIMM slot, and you can't buy a RAM-less Mac mini.



Your next server?

Network connections. The Mac mini comes with built-in 10/100Base-T Ethernet, and there's no upgrade path to Gigabit Ethernet. Adding Wi-Fi via an AirPort Extreme card adds \$79.

Don't stack. As tempting as it may be to do so, until we get a half-dozen or so in for testing, we don't recommend stacking Mac minis on top of one another. Apple Knowledge Base document 300577 says Bluetooth and Wi-Fi signals can be affected, since the antennas are at the top of the Mac mini. There's also a possibility that excessive weight can cause the case to bow and put pressure on the ComboDrive, which is located right under the top case—though Apple didn't have reports of this at press time.

NEW STUFF

PORTABLE PRO RECORDER

Edirol R-1

\$550

<http://edirol.com>

Available: Now

This new device from Edirol records high-quality 24-bit WAV and MP3 audio to CompactFlash memory cards (it comes with a 64MB card). It has two electret mic ports, an external line port, and a USB 2.0 port. The R-1's 24-bit internal effects processor's features include Roland COSM Mic Simulation, Noise Reducer, Hum Cut, a 10-band equalizer, Reverb, Center Cancel, and more.



Bring the recording studio with you.

TAKE THAT, iTUNES

Rogue Amoeba Slipstream

\$25

www.rogueamoeba.com

Available: Early 2005

You must use iTunes to play music through Apple's AirPort

Extreme—unless you use Rogue Amoeba's Slipstream, that is.

Slipstream lets you stream music from players other than iTunes—RealPlayer and Windows Media Player, for example—to the AirPort Express.



Use RealPlayer with your AirPort Extreme? For real.

WI-FISLR

Nikon D2X

\$4,999.95

www.nikon.com

Available: Now

Nikon's latest digital SLR for professional photographers has a 12.4-megapixel CMOS DX sensor with fast four-channel output for 4,288-by-2,848-pixel images. It has a burst of 21 JPEG or 15 RAW images. You can add an optional Wi-Fi card (price not yet determined at press time) for wireless image transfers to a computer or for remote control of the camera.



Fill the air with 12-megapixel pics.

DROOLWORTHY

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On



← Direct to DVD

Sony has long made direct-to-disc cameras such as the Mavica line that saves photos directly to CDs or floppy disk. Now with their **DCR-DVD7** (\$700, www.sony.com), videos can be saved directly to single-layer, 8-centimeter DVDs that'll play in most DVD players. The camera has a 2.5-inch LCD monitor on the back, a 680,000-pixel CCD, 10x optical zoom, USB 2.0, and support for DVD±RW formats.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SONY

POTS Goes to Pot→

Internet phones may one day replace your plain old telephone service, aka POTS. Not only are the rates cheaper, but there are things you can do with an Internet phone that you can't do on a regular phone, such as make full-motion, 30-frames-per-second video calls with Motorola's **Ojo Personal Videophone** (\$799 plus monthly service fee, www.motorola.com). The Ojo—that's Spanish for "eye"—uses the H.264 MPEG-4 video codec and has a 7-inch LCD for viewing video calls. The handset, which rests on the Ojo's 14-inch display arm, is cordless and can also be used to make voice-only calls over POTS or Voice over IP (VoIP).



IMAGE COURTESY OF MOTOROLA



Yes, your PSP can get along with your Mac.

USE PSP WITH YOUR MAC

► Did you just get a PSP (PlayStation Portable) and want to play your music and movies on the go? Welcome to **iPSP**. Simply make a playlist in iTunes for your music, a Photo Album in iPhoto for your photos, or dump your videos into iPSP's conversion queue. When you plug the PSP into your USB port, iPSP will automatically copy your selections to your PSP's memory stick. You can also use iPSP to back up your saved games.—*Matt Osborn*



iPSP

Price	Free
Available	Now
Ronin no Sakurakai Softronics http://kaisakura.com	



Talk about changing the face of golf!

BRING ON THE DANCING GOPHERS

► Do you dare to challenge a pro golfer at—or even in—his own game? In **Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005**, you can make a name for yourself by teeing off against legends such as Arnold Palmer or against other duffers online. Use the new Tiger Proofing course editor to modify fairways, greens, bunkers, and more, and Game Face II editor to prettify—or uglify—your golfer.—*MO*

Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005

Price	\$39.99
Available	May 2005
Aspyr Media www.aspyr.com	

FOG LIFTS ON FINAL MYST

► **Myst V: End of Ages** picks up where the original *Myst* ended. Players accept the challenge of restoring the lost empire of the D'ni, an ancient civilization that thrived for thousands of years but ended in catastrophe. Expect even more graphical beauty than any other *Myst* in an immersive 3D environment. Cyan is busy crafting puzzles, storyline, and gameplay to end the saga millions have cherished. *Myst V: End of Ages* will be released on a PC and Mac hybrid disk.—*MO*



Myst V: End of Ages

Price	TBA
Available	Fall 2005
Cyan and Ubisoft http://myst5.ubi.com	

UNLEASH YOUR INNER STEINBRENNER

► **Out of the Park Baseball 7** is a managing sim for the hard-core baseball enthusiast, similar to soccer sim *Championship Manager*. The game will include real players and teams from 27 leagues (pending licensing), featuring over 300 teams and 7,500 players. OOTPB 7 is being developed using common code for Mac and PC, so files should be interchangeable.—*MO*

Out of the Park Baseball 7

Price	TBA
Available	TBA
Sports Interactive www.sigames.com	

KILL JAR JAR, SAVE EWOKS?

► **Star Wars Battlefront** is a first-person shooter that gives gamers the opportunity to relive all of the classic *Star Wars* battles. Players can select from different soldier classes, jump into any vehicle, man any turret on the battlefield, and conquer the galaxy planet-by-planet in online multiplayer games or offline in a variety of single player modes, including a Historical Campaigns story mode that true *Star Wars* fans will especially love. Gameplay involves two opposing armies fighting over key control points on the field; the team that controls the most flag points in the time allotted wins—think *Battlefield 1942* with Wookiees.—*MO*



Star Wars Battlefront

Price	\$49.99
Available	June 2005
Aspyr Media www.aspyr.com	

AT-STs love strolling through the woods.



Your iPod mini can now see the world through tinted glasses.

(blue), and Tangerine (orange). The color palette doesn't jibe with the mini's blue, gold, green, pink, and silver (actual color names; no translation necessary), but that's OK with us.—*Roman Loyola*

iPOD CASE OF THE MONTH

XtremeMac's Shieldz (\$12.95, www.xtrememac.com) are hard plastic cases that protect your iPod mini's precious anodized aluminum face from not-so-delicate hands and the occasional drop. Shieldz latch on to the four corners of your mini, but don't worry—Shieldz won't leave behind any scratches or marks.

Most of your mini's sides are exposed when you snap on the Shieldz—that's because Shieldz are designed to be used with Apple's clip carrier (included with the mini), iPod mini Arm Band (\$29, www.apple.com), or XtremeMac's iPod mini Accessory Kit (\$29.95), which includes a car dash mount, neck strap, belt clip, snap-on clip, and an Ice Shieldz (Ice is Martha Stewart—speak for clear).

Speaking of colors, there are six to choose from, including Ice. With our real-world translations, they are Kiwi (light green), Lilac (soft purple), Rose (pink), Sky

SUBMIT YOUR CASE Whether your iPod case is a custom-made one-off or a mass-produced product, you can submit it for Case-of-the-Month consideration—just send it to iPod Case of the Month, *MacAddict*, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. Please note that we cannot return cases.

BUG OF THE MONTH



iPOD SHUFFLE KERFUFFLE

Apple's iPod shuffle (*Reviews*, p39) is not without its quirks. Here's how you can work around them—if you can.

MULTIPLE MACS Unlike the iPod and iPod mini, the shuffle can only be seen in iTunes if it's linked to the music library. If you connect and sync your shuffle with one Mac and then connect it to another, iTunes will warn you that the shuffle is linked to another iTunes music library and ask if you want to link to the library on the current Mac. If you click Yes, you'll replace all of the songs and playlists.

eMAC AND iMAC G3 The shuffle can't directly connect to the eMac or the original iMac G3 because of the way their USB ports are designed. Here are three workarounds:

1. Use a USB extension cable such as Other World Computing's USB 2.0 A/A 3-foot Extension Cable (\$4.95, www.macsales.com).
2. Connect the shuffle to your keyboard's USB port if it has one. This will only work if you are running Mac OS 10.3.6 or later. Your shuffle won't charge, however; you'll need to use Apple's iPod USB Power Adapter (\$29, www.apple.com) to charge it.
3. Buy an iPod shuffle Dock (\$29, www.apple.com). You'll be able to sync and charge at the same time.

AIFF AND LOSSLESS TUNES Unlike other iPods, the shuffle can't play AIFF or Apple Lossless audio files. If you have files in these formats in your music library, check Convert Higher Bitrate Songs To 128 kbps AAC For This iPod in iTunes' preferences, and your tunes will automatically convert when they're transferred.

SLEEPY TIME The shuffle won't charge if it's connected to a sleeping Mac. Either turn off the sleep options on your Mac (System Preferences > Energy Saver), or plunk down the \$29 for the aforementioned iPod USB Power Adapter.

What's New



Want to sync your BlackBerry with your Mac? PocketMac makes it possible.

Circus Ponies announced **NoteBook 2.0** (\$49.95, www.circusponies.com), which upgrades that note-taking app with over 150 new features. Ultralingua released **Grammatica 6.0** (\$29.95, www.ultralingua.com), which has the ability to check multiple languages at once, a new interface, and support for German (*danke!*).—*Roman Loyola*

Startly Technologies released **QuicKeys X3** (\$99.95, www.quickeys.com), an automation utility with a redesigned interface, improved recording, and new shortcut triggers. Script Software revealed **CopyPaste+yType** (\$30, www.scriptsoftware.com), a clipboard utility that has instantaneous spell checking, word prediction, a type logger, and more. Matias introduced **OS X Keyboard** (\$39.95, www.matias.ca), which lists special characters such as TM, ©, , and £ on the keys. Matias also uncovered **Key Maestro** (\$19.95), a utility that lets you create your own keyboard-command shortcuts.

Information Appliance Associates uncovered **PocketMac BlackBerry Edition**

(\$29.95 www.pocketmac.net), a tool that syncs your BlackBerry's contacts, calendar, tasks, and notes with your Mac. **iSticky** (\$24, www.isticky.net) lets you create notes that you can send to others using Rendezvous, IM, and SMS. Ranchero Software unveiled **MarsEdit** (\$24.95, <http://ranchero.com>), a blog editor with spell checking, drafts, multiple windows, and AppleScript support.

Circus Ponies announced **NoteBook 2.0** (\$49.95, www.circusponies.com), which upgrades that note-taking app with over 150 new features. Ultralingua released **Grammatica 6.0** (\$29.95, www.ultralingua.com), which has the ability to check multiple languages at once, a new interface, and support for German (*danke!*).—*Roman Loyola*

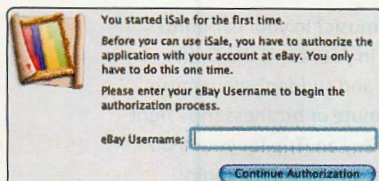
IMAGE COURTESY OF BLACKBERRY

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

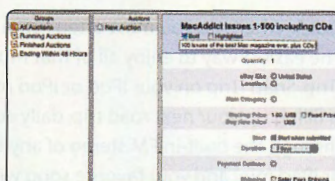
iSale www.equinox.com \$24.90



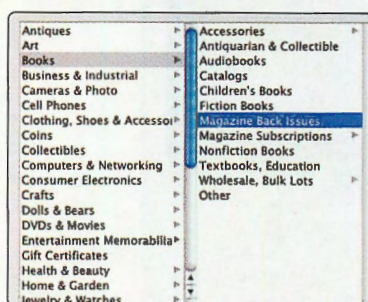
Still suffering from post-holiday bills? It's time to sell those unwanted, receipt-less gifts on eBay. iSale provides a fast and easy alternative to eBay's method of listing your auction items. Here's how to create quick eBay auction listings.—Andrew Tokuda



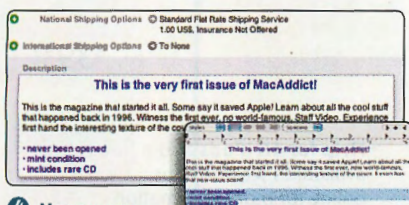
1 Launch iSale and enter your eBay user name. If you don't have one, you'll have to visit eBay and set one up first.



2 Click the plus sign below the center Auctions panel and start entering your auction-item info in the Edit panel.



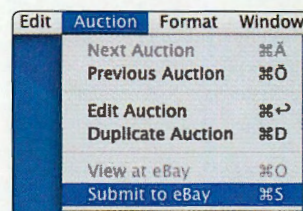
3 Some lines have little arrows that you can click to enter eBay-specific information, such as categories.



4 Use an app like TextEdit (pictured) to format your description with colors and styles. Copy and paste this into iSale's Description field.



5 Drag your photos from iPhoto or anywhere on your hard drive into the area labeled Drag Image Here.



6 Choose Auction > Submit To eBay to list your auction item on eBay.

iPOD INVADES CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

Apple's popular iPod stood out among the big-screen TVs, home entertainment systems, and other gaudy gizmos at the recent gargantuan Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. Apple wasn't there to showcase the iPod, but many other companies showed off their iPod accessories.

Nyko (www.nyko.com) hopes to cash in on the 'Pod craze with a new line of iPod add-ons (prices were not yet set at press time). The most intriguing of Nyko's products is **MoviePlayer**, which has a 3.5-inch color TFT screen and a control pad. Connect your iPod to MoviePlayer, and you can transfer and play movies and photos on MoviePlayer, though you have to convert your MOV and MPEG-4 files to Nyko's proprietary format.

Car adapters popped up everywhere—Alpine (www.alpine-usa.com), Audiovox (www.audiovox.com), Clarion (www.clarion.com), Monster Cable (www.monstercable.com), and Pioneer (www.pioneerelectronics.com) showed products that connect your iPod to your car stereo. Each company's product (except for Monster Cable's) works with its respective car stereo—Clarion's adapter works only

with Clarion car stereos, for example.

Motorola (www.motorola.com) previewed a mobile phone that can play music bought from the iTunes Music Store. The phone syncs through iTunes just like an iPod and has an iPod-like interface. Pricing for the iTunes phones was not announced. HP (www.hp.com) announced that an HP-branded iPod photo will be available later this year and will have the same prices as Apple's iPod photos.

Camera crazy. A few new video and still digital cameras were announced at CES. Canon (www.canonusa.com) showed six new Mini DV camcorders: the **ZR100** (\$349), **ZR200** (\$399), **ZR300** (\$499), **Elura 80** (\$549), **Elura 85** (\$599), and **Elura 90** (\$699). Samsung (www.samsungcamera.com) announced new still cameras: the **Digimax V700** (\$399), **Digimax U-CA 505** (\$199), **Digimax A400** (\$189), **Digimax A5** (\$229), **Digimax A6** (\$299), and **Digimax A7** (\$349). Eastman Kodak (www.kodak.com) announced the **EasyShare-One** (\$599), which can use a Wi-Fi card (\$99) for wireless file transfers. Casio (www.casio.com) announced the **EX-P700** (\$599), **QV-R62** (\$399), and **EX-Z50** (\$349).—Roman Loyola



Turn your iPod into a movie machine.



iTrip mini shown
(actual size)

Let me take you on a trip...

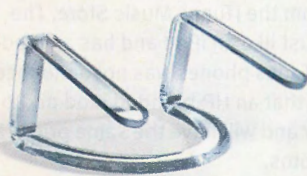
Quick, where do you most often listen to music? In your car, right? The easiest way to enjoy all of that music in your car is the Griffin iTrip. Snap iTrip on your iPod or iPod mini and suddenly your music is filling up your next road trip, daily commute or business trip - right through the built-in FM stereo of any car. Buy an iTrip for your iPod or iPod mini and your favorite song will always be on the radio.

iTrip FM Transmitter for iPod

\$39⁹⁹

- The **only** FM Transmitter designed exclusively for the iPod & iPod mini
- Choose any empty station from 87.7 to 107.9, and change your iTrip stations directly from the iPod

- **iTrip for 4G iPods** also available. Please visit us online for more information
- Draws power from the iPod, no batteries ever needed—or wasted



iCurve Laptop Desktop Stand

\$39⁹⁹

- Raises notebook screen to eye level - no more sore neck from looking down
- Creates room on the desktop for your favorite USB keyboard and mouse - wireless versions work great
- Keeps your notebook running cool (and loud fans off) with 360° airflow



iTalk Voice Recorder for iPod

\$39⁹⁹

- Turn your iPod into a digital voice recorder with thousands of hours of recording time
- Automatic Gain Control assures the best possible signal level for recordings
- Features internal microphone and built-in laptop quality speaker for playback
- Connect an external microphone or even headphones to the built in pass-through mini jack connection on top



iMic USB Audio Interface

\$39⁹⁹

- Record your old records and tapes to play in iTunes, put on your iPod, or burn to CDs
- Connect any keyboard, guitar or microphone directly to GarageBand for high quality recording
- Use line level output to connect your Mac to a stereo or external powered speakers

Another great idea from **GRIFFIN**
Buy now at www.griffintechnology.com

Inside the Mac mini

We test, review, and rate Apple's elegant new Mac mini.
Then we tear it limb from limb.

All those naysayers, analysts, self-appointed gurus, and pontificating pundits who've bitched and moaned about Apple's lack of a low-cost Mac must now shut the hell up—the Mac mini is here.

Cheap, compact, and cute, Apple's smallest, least-expensive Mac ever is a compelling bundle of time-tested technology that will please anyone who appreciates elegant and efficient design. What's more, it's a godsend to current Mac addicts who are stuck with an aging Power Mac G4 or fruit-colored iMac but can't afford the leap to a G5. It's also a tempting bit of techno-tease for suffering Windows users who are sick and #\$\$@%ing tired of spyware, viruses, and other peecee maladies, and want to find an affordable way to taste life at the Aqua banquet.

OK, so you won't find cutting-edge, top-notch components underneath the Mac mini's white-plastic and anodized-aluminum exterior—but hey, the same is true of sub-\$500 PCs. What you will find is a capable Mac that works well for general office duties, email, Internet access, and some not-so-challenging iLife '05 tasks.

But exactly how capable is the Mac mini? And exactly what components are inside?

Come along with us as we put the mini through its paces and then crack it open to dig around inside. We were impressed. You will be too.



by Roman Loyola
and
Niko Coucouvanis

Photography
by Samantha Berg

Typically, we reviewer types don't bother mentioning the box in which a product comes—it's a freakin' cardboard box, for chrissakes—but the Mac mini's box is actually useful. On the back, there's a basic, four-step setup guide. Actually, setting up takes three steps: One, unpack your Mac mini; two, connect your USB keyboard, USB mouse, and display (a compact VGA-to-DVI adapter is available if your display isn't DVI-capable); three, plug in the Mac mini and turn it on. The fourth step tells you to go get an iLife (easily done—it's installed on the mini's hard drive). More-detailed setup instructions are in the included 105-page user's guide, which also has helpful illustrations, a troubleshooting section, and information on how to use all the mini's features.

The mini itself measures 6.5 inches square, 2 inches tall, and weighs 2.9 pounds (add an ounce or two if you decided to pop for Bluetooth or AirPort Extreme). It's tempting to place your display on top of your mini—for that matter, it's tempting to stack more *minis* on top of your mini—but Apple discourages doing so if you have Bluetooth or AirPort Extreme installed because that may interfere with the signals of those wireless technologies (see Apple Knowledge Base article 300577 at www.apple.com/support for more details).

If you're moving up from an older Mac running OS 10.1 or later, just connect your new mini to it via FireWire and use the Setup Assistant to transfer your data—it's a breeze. If you're new to the Mac, you'll appreciate the equally breezy onscreen setup sequence that launches when you first start up your mini.

If you have more USB peripherals than the mini's two USB ports can handle—printer, scanner, camera, flash drive, PDA dock, iPod shuffle, whatever—you'll need to spend around \$25 on a USB hub. You might also need a \$50-to-\$70 FireWire hub if you have a bunch of FireWire gizmos such as an iPod, digital video camera, iSight, or external FireWire drive. Suddenly, the mini's small footprint isn't so small with all those hubs, eh?

Danger: Acronyms Ahead

We put two Mac minis through their paces. At the lower end was a mini with a 1.25GHz PowerPC G4 processor, 512MB of PC2700 (333MHz) DDR SDRAM (upgradable 1GB), an ATI Radeon 9200 graphics chip with 32MB of DDR SDRAM and AGP 4X support, a 40GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive, 10/100Base-T Ethernet, a V.92 56K modem, a slot-loading combo drive (DVD-ROM and CD-RW), Bluetooth, and AirPort Extreme. We also looked at a 1.42GHz Mac mini with specs identical to the 1.25GHz Mac mini except for an 80GB hard drive. Stock Mac minis come with only 256MB of RAM, and sans Bluetooth and AirPort Extreme. The price of the buffed-up 1.25GHz Mac mini we tested came to \$673 (\$75 for the extra memory, \$99 for the Bluetooth/AirPort Extreme combo); a 1.42GHz Mac mini with the same goodies goes for \$773.

Ever since Mac OS X was released, we've kvetched about the stock RAM configuration on Macs—256MB just isn't enough. Apple apparently agrees, as they no longer send us review units with a paltry 256MB of RAM. We highly recommend that you follow their—and our—lead, and up your new Mac mini's RAM to at least 512MB. If you're a DIY (do-it-yourself) type, you can save some money by buying RAM from a reputable third party and installing it yourself (the mini has a single, standard 184-pin DIMM slot). To install RAM, you'll need to pry open your mini with a putty knife. It's a surprisingly easy task, but one fraught with danger—if you break anything once you've pried open your mini, you'll have to pay the repair bill yourself.

Fast—Enough

So how much of a difference is there between a 1.25GHz and a 1.42GHz Mac mini? Yeah, smart aleck, we know it's 0.17GHz—we mean how much more *performance* does that hundred bucks buy you? A non-trivial amount, it turns out.

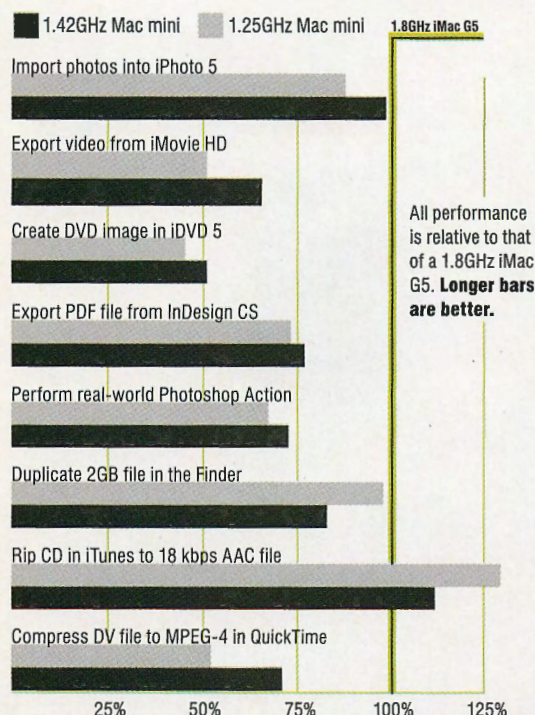
After running a battery of tests on both minis, and living with

them as our day-to-day machines for a week, we discovered that when running processor-intensive tasks, the 1.42GHz mini provides a significant performance improvement over the 1.25GHz model. Exporting an iMovie HD movie runs 28 percent faster on a 1.42GHz mini than on a 1.25GHz one. Even more impressive? When we converted a DV movie to MPEG-4 in QuickTime Pro, the 1.42GHz mini was 36 percent faster. Who'd a thunk it?

Tasks that didn't involve as much data wrangling resulted in a less dramatic speed difference. For example, the 1.42GHz mini was only 13 percent faster than the 1.25GHz mini when we imported photos into iPhoto. When we saved a disc image of our iDVD project, the 1.42GHz mini was 12 percent faster. When we ran a real-world Photoshop Action on a 25MB file—a test that stresses both the processor and the hard drive—the 1.42GHz mini was 8 percent faster; when we exported a PDF file from InDesign, the 1.42GHz mini was a mere 6 percent faster. ▶

By the Numbers

To gauge the performance of the 1.25GHz and 1.42GHz Mac minis, we ran a boatload of real-world tests—not all of them are listed here. We also ran the same tests on a 20-inch iMac G5 (Dec/04, p38). All Macs were tested with 512MB of RAM (the stock configuration for all three Macs is 256MB). On the iMac G5, we set Processor Performance in System Preferences > Energy Saver > Options to Highest; the Processor Performance option isn't available on the G4-equipped Mac mini—it's only available on G5-equipped Macs.



A Mac mini Autopsy

The Mac mini is a marvel of engineering elegance. So what else could we do but gut the little sucker like a largemouth bass?

It certainly looks like another closed system from the company that practically invented the phrase “warranty void if opened,” but unlike your iPod, iMac (G3 or G4), iBook, or PowerBook, simply opening up your mini is OK by Apple. Your warranty is safe—but if something goes wrong while you’re inside, pop goes your warranty like the nursery-rhyme weasel.

So if you just want to see what’s inside the mini, read on. However, if you’ve already bought one and are considering upgrading it yourself, we should warn you that although opening up the mini is simple (just supply your own putty knife), when we closed ours back up, the plastic casing was slightly—but noticeably—bent, leaving a gap between the casing and the aluminum sidewall.

—Niko Coucouvanis

COMBO DRIVE

The combo drive can’t burn DVDs, but it can read them at up to 8x speed; it reads and burns CDs at 24x, and re-writes CDs at a zippy 16x. An extra hundred bucks will buy you a SuperDrive-equipped mini.

The top comes off with a putty knife, revealing the optical drive.

Pull back the optical drive to see more components underneath and the motherboard below.

SPEAKER

This wee lil’ guy actually sounds decent—for a 1-watt speaker, that is. We’d hook up powered speakers to the audio-out port instead.

FAN

This little brushless wonder keeps the mini cool and has the good sense to keep quiet by spinning slowly—it only speeds up when things get hot.

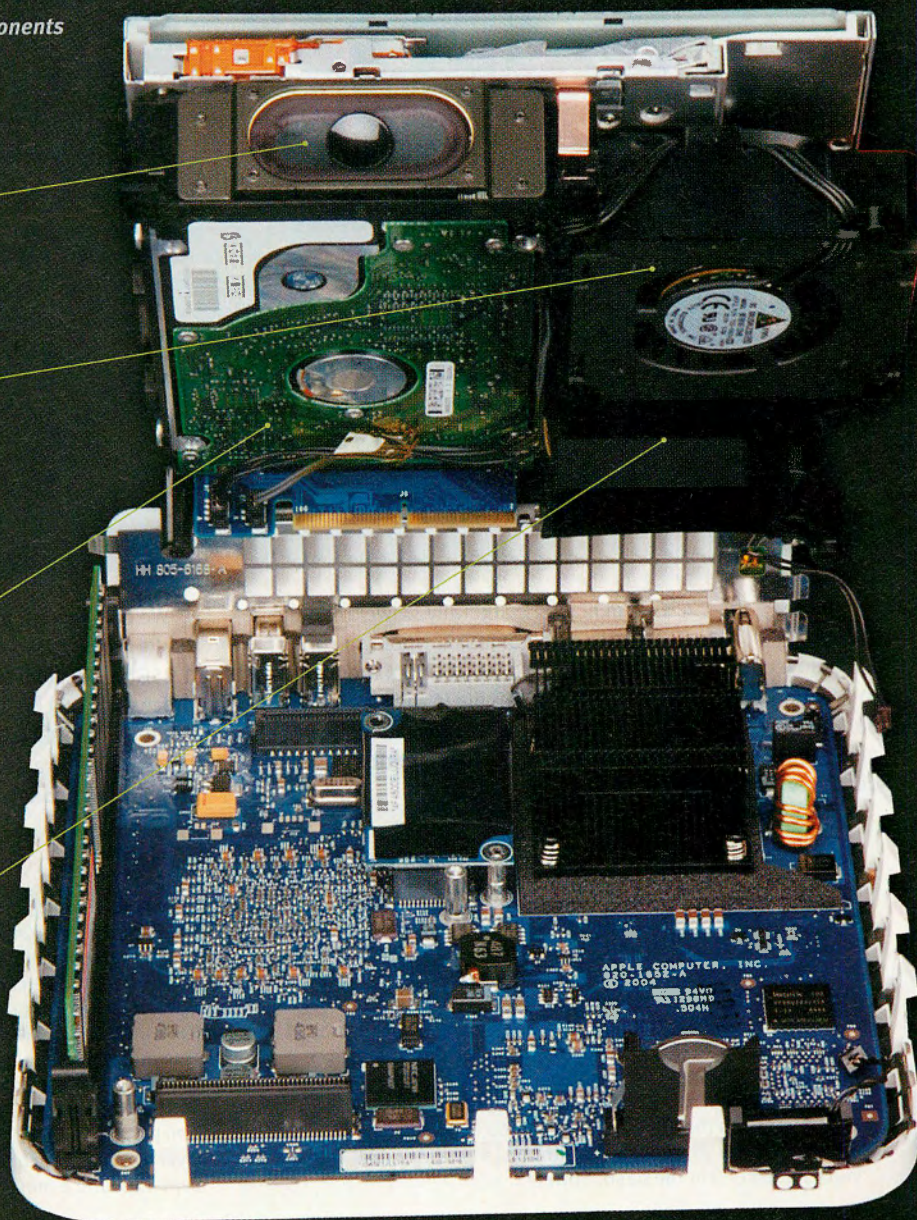
HARD DRIVE

Our mini’s hard drive is a 40GB, 5,400-rpm ATA/100 Seagate Momentus with a fat 8MB cache to redeem some of the pokey performance associated with 5,400-rpm drives. Your mini may have a different brand or speed of drive—Apple originally told us that the minis would have 4,200-rpm drives—but whatever drive you get, it’ll be a 2.5-incher like the one in your iBook.

VENTILATIONIZATION

This enclave surrounds the G4 processor’s heat sink, creating a baffled air path directly to the mini’s rear ventilating holes. And we’re not kidding about the direct part: Apple warns against removing the tape covering the tiny little hole in the plastic air guide. Sounds like a dare to us. Don’t you just hate it when someone tells you not to do something?

“A Mac mini Autopsy” continues on the following page.



◀ Inside the Mac mini

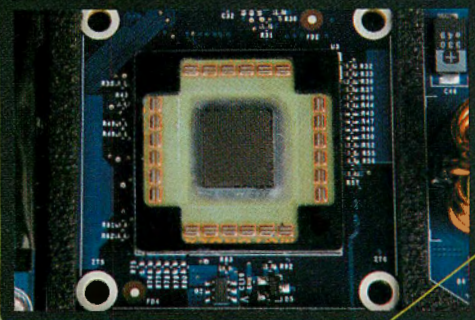
A Mac mini Autopsy (continued)

HARD DRIVE CONNECTOR

This longish connector is for the hard drive.

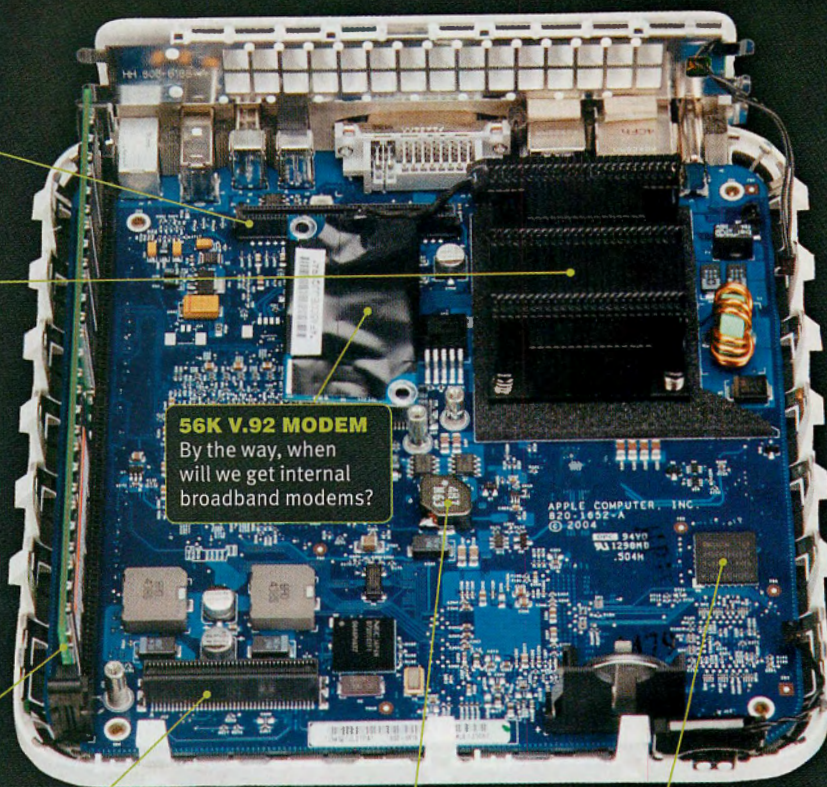
PROCESSOR

Under this Sim City–looking heat sink is the mini's brain: a 1.25GHz (or 1.42GHz) G4 processor. Unlike many G4 Macs, there's no L3 cache, but there is 512KB of L2 cache right on the chip, running at the same speed as the processor. Coupled with the mini's 167MHz frontside bus (and maybe a juicy RAM upgrade), this G4 kicks the Intel Celeron's butt.



56K V.92 MODEM

By the way, when will we get internal broadband modems?



RAM

Our rip-apartable mini came with a 256MB stick of PC3200U 400MHz DDR SDRAM—the spec calls for PC2700U, but PC3200U RAM is backward-compatible. If the stock 256MB seems tiny, look how easy it is to get inside and change it. (Putting it all back together may be a different matter.)

MEZZANINE CONNECTOR

Had we gutted an AirPort- and Bluetooth-equipped mini, both wireless modules would be right here, connected via a so-called Mezzanine daughtercard. Don't fret—the \$99 AirPort Extreme & Bluetooth upgrade kit includes the Mezzanine board.

MYSTERY MORSEL

This unidentified 4.7-ohm resistor probably does something really, really important—and if you know what that might be, feel free to let us know.

VIDEO RAM BUFFER #1

Half of the mini's video RAM sits up here; the other half sits around back. Both are tied to the ATI Radeon 9200 GPU (graphics processing unit).

Curiously, the 1.42GHz mini was marginally slower than the 1.25GHz mini when it came to a pair of tasks: ripping a copy of our beloved *Philosophy of the World* music CD (ah, the Shags) to AAC in iTunes, and duplicating a 2GB file in the Finder. And in our Unreal Tournament benchmarks, which we used to test the mini's video performance, the two minis had identical results—duh, they have identical graphics chips.

We also ran our battery of tests on a 1.8GHz, 20-inch iMac G5 (Dec/04, p38). As expected, the iMac left the 1.25GHz Mac mini in the dust when performing data-intensive processing in iLife '05 (see "By the Numbers," p20)—and the 1.42GHz model didn't fare much better. The 1.25GHz mini did better when it came to less-processor-intensive iLife tasks; and when we ripped our audio CD, the 1.25GHz mini was actually

Mac mini Mods and Coattailers

The iPod sparked all manner of gewgaws for personalizing your 'Pod, plus a whole subculture of PodMods. Well, get ready for round two. Mac mini madness is already underway, as evidenced by these gems we found on the InterWeb.

THE SERVICES: www.macminicolo.net

At 6.5 inches square, the mini has roughly 1/12 the footprint of an Xserve ... hey, now there's an idea: Mac mini Web colocation!

THE MODS: www.classicresto.com/macmini.html

Inspired gearheads (a term of endearment here at MacAddict) hack a mini into their muscle car—a 1969 Nova SS, no less, with a big block V8, rock-crusher tranny, and a Mac mini with a touchscreen LCD in the dash. Shweet!

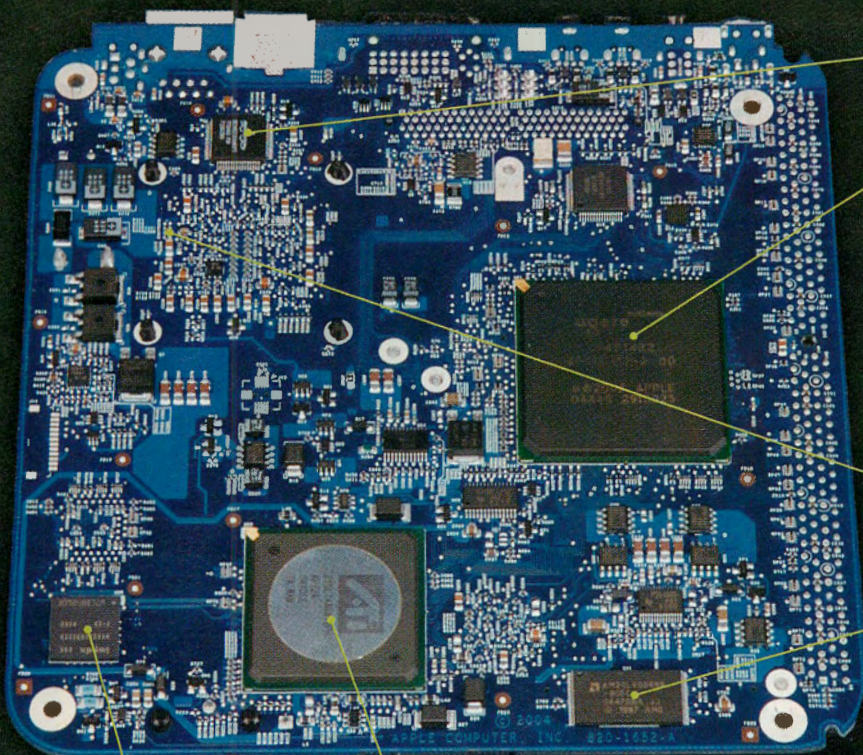
THE HACKS: <http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/prod/dialspace/town/pipexdsl/q/aqza37/macmini>

An enterprising fellow overclocks his mini from 1.25GHz to 1.42GHz—a 14-percent increase. Before you get any bright ideas, however, check out the delicate microsurgery that's involved.

THE UGLY: www.kevinrose.com/index.php/weblog/comments/191 One misguided soul guts a mini only to infect its swanky hull with the innards of a skanky PC. Phew...

THE MEDIA CENTER PIONEERS: www.engadget.com/entry/1234000057028826

Over at Engadget.com, a clever home entertainer builds a media center around a mini.



FIREWIRE CONTROLLER

Bet you can guess what this controls.

"INTREPID" I/O CONTROLLER

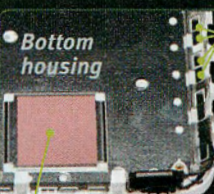
This impressive chunk of circuitry is like a little traffic cop for the mini's various inputs and outputs. Data from Ethernet, FireWire, ATA (hard disk and optical drive), AGP (graphics), and system RAM all meet up here to catch the frontside bus to the main processor. You may recognize Intrepid from our autopsy of the 17-inch PowerBook (Jul/03, p41). Sure you do.

PLL (PHASE-LOCKED LOOP) CONTROLS

Attention, geeks! You can reconfigure these jumpers to overclock this sucker. Everybody else, just move along now, nothing for you to see here.

FLASH MEMORY FOR MEZZANINE CARD

When you upgrade your Bluetooth or AirPort software, here's where it goes.



BREATHING HOLES

Keep your mini on a flat, hard, desktop-like surface to keep its cooling vents unobstructed and happy.

THERMAL PAD

The thermal pad sucks heat off the graphics processor and uses a process similar to reverse osmosis to dissipate the heat via the metal shielding below.

VIDEO RAM BUFFER #2

ATI RADEON 9200 GPU

Possibly the mini's mini-est (OK, weakest) link, this Radeon 9200 GPU with 32MB of DDR SDRAM won't do justice to Doom 3 or other cutting-edge games, but it's potent enough to handle the Quartz graphics goodies in Mac OS 10.3 (Panther). Apple hasn't yet released details, but we're assuming that the Radeon 9200 will be able to handle the Core Image and Core Video technologies that will arrive in Mac OS 10.4.

22 percent *faster*. Gamers take heed, however: When running Unreal Tournament 2004, the iMac posted a 175-percent-higher framerate than both minis in the botmatch test and 80 percent higher in the flyby test.

The bottom line: The mini, for all its miniaturized glory, contains older, slower components than the rest of Apple's desktop lineup. So what? It's not touted as a pixel-pushing screamer. While we didn't use a stopwatch to time all of our day-to-day mini tasks, we found it to be quite serviceable for everyday use—word processing, spreadsheets, email, Web and Internet access, basic movies and iPhoto, even our recipe database (Editor in Chief Rik's *kluski z tarych kartofli* is killer, by the way). And we found that the mini works quite well as an iTunes repository and iPod accessory—hell, a stock 1.25GHz Mac mini is a hundred bucks *cheaper* than a top-of-the-line iPod photo.

The Right Mac, Place, and Time

The Mac mini is so small that you can let your imagination go wild when it comes to putting the little fella to use—how about connecting it to your TV's S- or composite-video ports with the optional \$19 Apple Video Adapter? The Mac mini's mini price

might even make it an impulse buy for some. But if processor power is paramount, consider an iMac G5 instead.

The Mac mini may not be the fastest Mac in Apple's stable, but it has more than enough oomph for everyday use. Is the Mac mini ready to invade the world? Brace yourself.—Roman Loyola

Company: Apple

Contact: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com

Price: \$499 for 1.25GHz Mac mini (\$673 as tested); \$599 for 1.42GHz Mac mini (\$773 as tested)

Stock specs: 1.25GHz Mac mini: single 1.25GHz PowerPC G4, 512K L2 cache, 167MHz frontside bus, 256MB PC2700 (333MHz) DDR SDRAM, 32MB ATI Radeon 9200, 40GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive, combo drive. 1.42GHz Mac mini: identical specs except for 1.42GHz PowerPC G4 and 80GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive.

Good news: Finally, an affordable Mac. Quiet. Small footprint.

Bad news: Low RAM with stock models. Limited expansion possibilities.

1.25GHz Mac mini ●●●●● GREAT

1.42GHz Mac mini ●●●●● AWESOME



Snapshot Printer a-go-go!

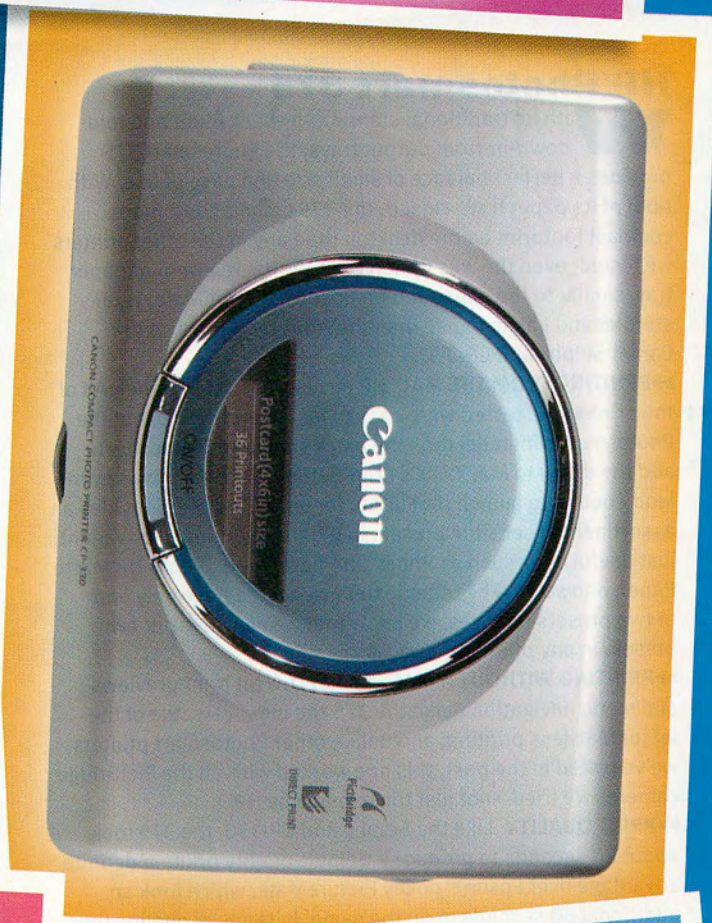
Smile! Snapshot-sized photo printers let you share moments whenever and wherever they happen.

by Niko Coucouvanis

You've upgraded to a digital camera—maybe you're even wearing out your second or third. Now it's time to break your Fotomat habit once and for all. The latest snapshot printers make it easier than ever to produce your own prints, and most are even portable—more or less. We corralled five that work with your Mac, all of which are sold separately (not bundled with a camera): the Canon CP-330, Canon Selphy DS700, Epson PictureMate, HP Photosmart 375, and Olympus P-10.

Three are traditional ink-spitters, and two use a thermal dye-sublimation printing process (see “Pick Yer Poison,” p26). Some can print directly from media cards, and a couple of those provide an onboard LCD screen to aid in Mac-less printing. Some offer battery power and car-power adapters for true portability (see “TCO,” p28). And all support printing from PictBridge-compatible cameras—though some support it better than others.

After our thorough testing (see “Test Sweet,” p28), we assembled a printer-savvy jury to judge each image from each printer. We lined them up alongside the same images printed by a local photofinisher that uses the Fuji process, and printed using iPhoto's mail-order service, which uses the Kodak process. The jury then engaged in a spirited afternoon of thoughtful image-quality discussion and personal invective before agreeing upon a winner. So which printers are good enough to keep you from ever having to leave home to pick up your prints again? Read on!





HP's small photo printer rules! Add a battery and it's a well-mannered traveler.



HP Photosmart 375 ●●●●●

With its traditional stand-up-in-back input and fold-down-in-front output trays, the Photosmart 375 provides a perfect balance of small size and ease of use. With both of its paper trays closed, the 375 commands a more compact footprint on the desktop than any of the other printers we tested, even the wee Canon CP-330. The rear-mount paper tray, similar to the one found on Epson's PictureMate, is far sturdier and easier to use than the front-feed trays on the Canon Selphy and CP-330.

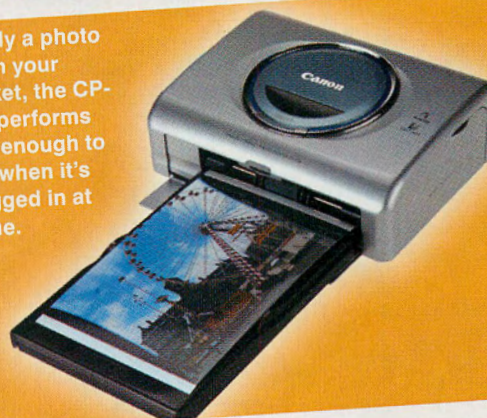
►►**PRINTING FROM THE MAC** HP has its Mac act together. All of the printers we tested were easy to install and set up, but the Photosmart's installer took the extra step of reminding us to add the driver to Mac OS X's Print Setup Utility—and was even kind enough to launch that utility for us. HP's driver provides an assortment of sensible presets in iPhoto—nothing extravagant, just useful ones such as Photo On Photo Paper, Photo On Matte Paper, and so on. The other inkjets we tested have only one or two presets (and yes, we know that we can save our own presets in any printer driver).

►►**PRINTING WITHOUT A MAC** A color LCD for print previews and menu navigation make the 375 the most versatile of the lot for Mac-less printing, and unlike other Photosmart printers we've tested in the past, this one worked with all the PictBridge cameras we tried—not just those made by HP.

►►**PRINT QUALITY** Like the Selphy and CP-330, the 375 took about 90 seconds to produce a default-quality print—a definite advantage over Epson's pokey PictureMate, which took an additional 60 seconds to do the same. In terms of quality, the 375 and PictureMate have the most consistent color accuracy. To our jury, the best print was a tossup between one from the PictureMate and one from the 375; personal taste was the deciding factor.

►►**BOTTOM LINE** Price per print might be a tempting reason to choose the PictureMate over the 375—but if time is money, 100 prints will cost you an extra hour and 40 minutes on the Epson. Get the 375 if you want the best mix of small size, print speed, and all-around picture quality. Consider the printer's ability to use HP's exclusive Photo Gray cartridge for

Nearly a photo lab in your pocket, the CP-330 performs well enough to use when it's plugged in at home.



superior black-and-white prints a bonus, if you're into that. One caveat: The 375's prints were the only ones to fail our water-fastness test, so if there's a chance your prints might someday get wet, choose another snapshot printer.

Canon CP-330 ●●●●●

We had nothing but respect for the CP-330's predecessor, the CP-300 (●●●●● Nov/03, p59); we found its quick, color-accurate prints and extreme portability impressive. The current model upholds that standard, and it handles itself better than the other dye-sublimation printer we tested, the Olympus P-10—mainly because it's quieter and feels sturdier, as does its dye-ribbon cartridge. The CP-330 does have drawbacks, however. The wee size necessitates an out-of-printer media path. You have to wedge a flimsy, six-inch-long plastic tray into the front to feed the thing—already doubling its footprint—and you need to leave another four inches behind the printer to accommodate the print as it slides in and out during the four-stage printing process.

►►**PRINTING FROM THE MAC** Being dye-sublimation models, the P-10 and CP-330 don't have many driver options: Resolution is a fixed 300 by 300, and there's only one type of media. You can opt to print without the protective overcoating, which

Pick Yer Poison

Inkjet or Dye-Sub? (Or Fotomat?)

Printer geeks may claim that we're essentially comparing oranges to bananas here by including both inkjet- and dye-sublimation-based printers. Here's how the two printing technologies differ:

Inkjet printers, as the name suggests, spit ink onto paper, using three or more colors of ink to cover the entire color gamut. Dye-sublimation, on the other hand, is a thermal process whereby a dye-coated ribbon is heated to vaporize the dye, which then resolidifies on

HP PHOTOSMART 375 ●●●●●

PRICE: \$199.99

CONTACT: 800-752-0900,
www.hp.com

GOOD NEWS: Excellent print quality. Nicely designed. Good speed.

BAD NEWS: Battery is \$79.99 extra.

CANON CP-330 ●●●●●

PRICE: \$279

CONTACT: 800-652-2666,
www.canonusa.com

GOOD NEWS: Small. Quiet. Battery included. Generally accurate color.

BAD NEWS: Oversaturated prints. You pay for a battery whether you want it or not.

EPSON PICTUREMATE ●●●●●

PRICE: \$199

CONTACT: 800-463-7766,
www.epson.com

GOOD NEWS: Smart design. Excellent quality. Lowest per-print price.

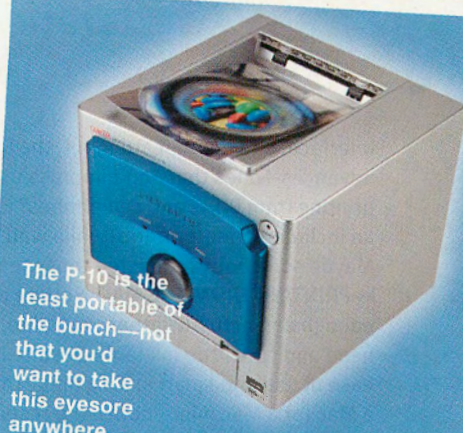
BAD NEWS: Dead-dog slow. Some prints tinged with magenta. No battery option.



The boxy shape and groovy handle makes you want to strut down the street with the PictureMate on your shoulder.



The Selphy sports infrared input, video output, and other frills we don't need.



The P-10 is the least portable of the bunch—not that you'd want to take this eyesore anywhere.

resists water, prevents fading, and protects against scratches and fingerprints—but that would be silly. There are no color adjustments or filters, which is fine by us. As with the P-10, printing from iPhoto was simple: Just click Print, select your printer from the list, and click OK in the dialog that appears.

►►**PRINTING WITHOUT A MAC** All of our PictBridge-compatible test cameras worked fine with the CP-330—letting us select which shots to print, how many copies, and so on via the cameras' onboard controls—which made its lack of an LCD screen less of an issue. The CP-330 lacks any media card slots, which is OK, because card slots are only really useful on printers with screens for menus and previews.

►►**PRINT QUALITY** The CP-330's color accuracy was generally good except for a little extra blue in the skin tones (the other dye-sublimation unit, the P-10, added extra blush, and the inkjets left our subject pallid). As with the P-10, our main complaint with the CP-330 is its tendency toward oversaturation, which can muddy shadow detail and darken high-contrast shots.

►►**BOTTOM LINE** Several features might make this printer perfect for you: It's the smallest of the bunch, it works well with a variety of PictBridge cameras, and unlike any of the others, it comes with a rechargeable battery—although you pay a premium for that inclusion.

Epson PictureMate ●●●●●

Epson bills the PictureMate as a personal photo lab—but it's not a battery-powered portable one, no matter what the groovy handle makes you think. We thoroughly dig this printer's look, design, and overall usability, but HP's Photosmart 375 is everything the PictureMate wants to be, only better: Lack of a handle aside, the 375 is smaller and sleeker, comes with a more graceful paper tray, and its optional battery power makes it truly portable.

►►**PRINTING FROM THE MAC** Installing the PictureMate's unique flat ink cartridge was completely intuitive. Setting up and using the PictureMate with our Mac was simple, and Epson's driver didn't annoy us by turning on color correction by default, as other Epson drivers do.

►►**PRINTING WITHOUT A MAC** Thanks to its grayscale screen, the PictureMate handles media-card printing better than any of the other printers except the color LCD-equipped 375. Printing via PictBridge also worked as expected, though it took at least ten minutes to print a 9MB TIFF file directly from a camera. (We can't say exactly how long because we got tired of waiting and went out for coffee.) By comparison, the 375 only took a couple of minutes to print the same image from the same camera.

►►**PRINT QUALITY** Epson ups the color ante with a unique six-color pigment-based ink cartridge—the others we tested use three-color CMYK systems. The extra colors look great on the spec sheet, but we had trouble seeing any color-gamut or color-accuracy advantage over the 375. Regardless, the PictureMate and 375 owned image quality and consistency in all of our tests.

►►**BOTTOM LINE** The PictureMate itself isn't cheap, but after a few hundred prints, you'll make it up in the cost of materials—Epson's paper-and-ink pack provides a guaranteed 100 prints for \$29, making it the only unit with a lower per-print price than Fotomat and iPhoto prints. The flip side is that the Epson's slow print speed will cost you at least an extra 100 minutes—plenty

of time to get to the Fotomat and back. If every minute counts, opt for the speedier Photosmart 375.

Canon Selphy DS700 ●●●●●

While most of the printers we tested focus on portability, camera

special polyester media. With inkjets, all the ink is laid down in one pass of the paper; with dye-subs, the media makes four passes, one for each of the three colors and one for a protective coating.

The advantages to inkjet printers include sharper edges and a wider gamut, or "color range," lower cost per print, and more readily available supplies. Dye-subs' advantages include water and light resistance when printed with the available protective coating, extra-vibrant colors, slightly speedier print times, true continuous-tone printing (no visible dots)—and the gee-whiz factor of using an obscure-yet-time-honored technology.

CANON SELPHY DS700

●●●●●

PRICE: \$199.99

CONTACT: 800-652-2666, www.canonusa.com

GOOD NEWS: Video if you want it. Good color accuracy and detail on high-contrast outdoor shots.

BAD NEWS: Video-out on a printer? C'mon. Washed-out color and detail on bright and low-contrast shots.

OLYMPUS P-10

●●●●●

PRICE: \$179

CONTACT: 888-553-4448, www.olympusamerica.com

GOOD NEWS: High (50-sheet) paper capacity. Fastest print time (65 seconds).

BAD NEWS: Loud. Lousy with shadow details. Fussy PictBridge requires extra camera tweaking. No media card slots or LCD.

interface, and media-card input, the Selphy pioneers other advances—ones that don't impress us. An infrared port for printing from PDAs and cell phones? Eh. TV-out for printing via an included remote control while watching slide shows? Huh? Maybe somebody requested those features, but it wasn't us.

►►**PRINTING FROM THE MAC** Setting up the Selphy was simple enough and actually rather enjoyable, with its cute little print head and cute little ink tank. Despite its Mac-irrelevant frills, its ease of use and smart styling make the Selphy a fine match for a Mac (or a Mac mini—notice the resemblance). Overall, we dub the Selphy “The Reliable One” because of its consistent ability to print good-enough photos of all types, as opposed to printing some terrifically and some terribly.

►►**PRINTING WITHOUT A MAC** Eschewing any battery option but adding a video-out port, the Selphy is more a convergence device than a portable one. PictBridge compatibility and media card slots aren't important to us on a printer that we can't easily take to the beach, bar, bar mitzvah, or where have you. That said, the Selphy handled camera-direct printing with all of our test cameras—but with no LCD, the Selphy made printing from media cards more trouble than it was worth.

►►**PRINT QUALITY** The Selphy's output isn't bad—any of the Selphy's prints would please us on its own, and it was the most consistent in its ability to produce decent prints from different types of images. But when we lined them up next to the prints produced by Epson's PictureMate and HP's Photosmart 375, we couldn't overlook the Selphy's washed-out highlights, blue cast, and extra contrast in bright outdoor shots.

►►**BOTTOM LINE** Like the other inkjets we tested, the Selphy provides more driver settings than the dye-sublimation

TCO (Takin' Care Of...)

A printer's TCO, or “total cost of ownership,” includes consumables such as ink and paper. You'll quickly exhaust the supplies that come with your new snapshot printer—then the real costs add up.

The cost per print is easy to calculate for some of the printers. The Canon CP-330, Olympus P-10, and Epson PictureMate use special dye-ribbon-and-media or ink-cartridge-and-paper packs made by their respective manufacturers, with the amount of ink matched to the number of sheets of media or paper. Your local electronics mart or cubicle depot should stock the printer-specific supplies—and the key word is *should*. It's a little harder to figure the other two inkjets, because the paper and ink are sold separately.

HP's Photosmart 375 gets two bonus points in the ink department; it uses HP's standard ink cartridges, which are

Olympus P-10 and Canon CP-330 do. It can even create some special effects, such as sepia prints. Whether this is good or bad depends on you—we still do all of our color adjustments in iPhoto or Photoshop Elements, never with a printer driver's onboard controls.

Olympus P-10

The boxy Olympus P-10 looks like a refugee from the translucent-and-fruity peripheral invasion sparked by Apple's original iMac—but we can forgive that. We're less

Test Sweet

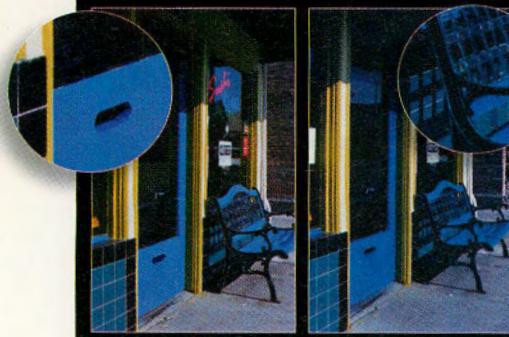
Different images present different challenges—and different results.

We fed our little printers four typical snapshots, printing both from a Mac with iPhoto and from a group of PictBridge-enabled cameras. The images were a colorful, contrasty storefront; a bright yard with a wheelbarrow, displaying generally neutral colors; an evenly lit serape with vivid stripes; and a tender, softly lit portrait.

Our printer-savvy jury examined the storefront scene for color range and accuracy, combing the dark areas for fine detail (or *any* detail, in some cases); they scrutinized the bright wheelbarrow shot for highlight blow-out, a common problem when printing overexposed photos. The serape

prints revealed color-correctness capabilities—and how subtle variations can elude some printers. In the portrait, our experts looked for detail and color shifts in the subject's dark hair, tonal quality in her skin, and overall color balance.

All the prints looked pretty decent by themselves, but the side-by-side comparison brought out some definite strengths and weaknesses. Some jury members preferred the vivid prints produced by the dye-sublimation models, while others turned up their noses at the heightened color saturation. Some liked the saturation on one image while disdaining it on the next. Personal preference is, well, a personal thing.



Epson's PictureMate (left), like the other inkjets, reproduced what little detail there is to see through the door. Canon's CP-330 (right), produced oversaturated colors.



Canon's CP-330 (left) couldn't hold the detail in the darker stripes. The HP Photosmart 375 (right) and the other inkjets kept the stripes apart, but left the flowers looking a little wan.

likely to be easier to find than any printer-specific ink; and replacing the stock color tank with the optional Photo Gray ink tank will get you better black-and-whites.

In addition to consumables, you should also factor in any accessories you may want to glom onto. In this arena, the Canon CP-330 gets kudos for its included battery and spankies for the high price of its car-power adapter.

girth and weight, the P-10 has no battery or car-friendly power option, so it stays near your Mac. Like all of our test printers, driver installation and setup was uneventful, as was printing from iPhoto and Photoshop Elements.

►►**PRINTING WITHOUT A MAC** The P-10's Mac-less printing options are limited to PictBridge-compatible cameras via the front-mounted USB port. Unfortunately, most of our PictBridge cameras—even some by Olympus—required extra futzing with the camera (obscure settings like USB mode and print order

that none of the other printers cared about). Once we cajoled the cameras to play nice with the P-10's peculiarities, PictBridge printing worked as expected.

►►**PRINT QUALITY** The P-10 handled our test images adequately; colors and skin tones were acceptable but generally oversaturated. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but the printer did mangle slight color variation and fine detail in dark and shadowy areas. Our portrait subject's cheeks gained a few Jell-O—shots'

worth of blush—which some of our judges preferred.

►►**BOTTOM LINE** Adding to the P-10's faults is the ongoing price of using it—Olympus charges \$64.95 for a 100-print media-and-ink kit, which amounts to a hefty 65 cents per print (although online discounts can bring that down significantly). Its best feature is that it's fast. ■

PRINTER	INK OR MEDIA-AND-RIBBON COST		PAPER/MEDIA COST		PER-PRINT COST		ACCESSORIES		
	Manufacturer	Online Discounter	Manufacturer	Online Discounter	Manufacturer	Online Discounter	Battery	Car Adapter	Carrying Case
Canon CP-330	36-print media-and-ribbon pack: \$19.99; 108-print pack: \$49.99	108-print media-and-ribbon pack: \$42.95	(Media sold with ink ribbon)		55¢ or 46¢*	40¢	Included	\$110.00	\$35.99
Canon Selphy DS700	70-print set of two ink tanks: \$22.95	None	100 sheets of Glossy Photo Paper: \$19.90	None	53¢	None	None	None	None
Epson PictureMate	100-sheet paper-and-ink pack: \$29	100-sheet paper-and-ink pack: \$24	(Paper sold with ink cartridge)		29¢	24¢	None	\$49.99	\$29.99
HP Photosmart 375	150-print ink cartridge: \$34.99	150-print ink cartridge: \$30.75	100 sheets of Premium Photo Paper, Glossy: \$19.99	100 sheets of Premium Photo Paper, Glossy: \$14.00	43¢	35¢	\$79.99	\$39.99	\$34.99
Olympus P-10	100-print media-and-ribbon pack: \$64.95	100-print media-and-ribbon pack: \$40	(Media sold with ink ribbon)		65¢	40¢	None	None	None

*Cost varies depending upon capacity of media-and-ribbon packs.

tolerant of the P-10's general behavior, from having to gingerly handle the flimsy dye-ribbon cartridge to the wretched noise the thing makes while spitting out a print (and even after) to its inhospitality toward many of our test cameras.

►►**PRINTING FROM THE MAC** The P-10 is the least portable printer in this hoedown; aside from its defensive-linemanesque



The Olympus P-10's (left) deep, rich colors—too deep and rich on most images—gave some pleasing intensity to foliage. By comparison, the rust in the Canon Selphy image (right) just isn't rusty enough.



The HP Photosmart 375 (left), typical of the inkjets, did a good job revealing detail in the hair. The Olympus P-10 (right) gave our subject a rosy glow, which some of our judges found appealing.

Control Surfaces

We also took our test-image files to a photofinishing center that used the Fuji process (top), and ordered Kodak prints through iPhoto (bottom). We generally liked the results better than any of the prints from the snapshot printers we tested—but having the printer right on our desk is inarguably more convenient.



Amaze your friends! Befuddle your enemies!

April Fools

It's our seventh annual April Fools' Day pile o' pranks!

It's official: The world is going to hell in a handbasket—but can't we have a little fun speeding it on its way? After all, this is our April issue, and we're required by state and federal statutes to dish up at least a few new pranks with which to smite your Mac-using brethren. As always, remember that the following gags are provided for entertainment and educational purposes only; under no circumstances will *MacAddict* pay your medical or legal bills if you're imprudent enough to try these on real people. So without further ado, here's a handful of dirty tricks to fiddle with while Rome burns.

Sig-nifying Nothing

Don't you hate people with overly cutesy email signatures (aka sigs)? We're sure the universe wouldn't mind, karmically speaking, if you got a couple of the worst offenders fired. ▼

① SNEAK UP ON THE SIG

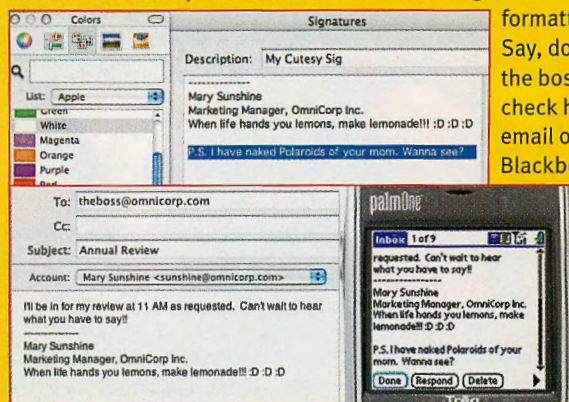
Sneak over to your victim's unattended Mac and open Mail's Preferences. Click the Signatures icon. Double-click the default signature to edit it.

② **INDULGE YOUR INNER JERK** Tack on a P.S. with something wildly inappropriate—an outrageous insult, an offensive comment, that sort of thing. Don't be shy.

③ **MAKE RUDENESS INVISIBLE** Select the new text and choose Format > Show Colors. Make the text white. Close Preferences, saving all changes.

THE PUNCH LINE White text on a white background is invisible, so outgoing messages will look the same, and your victim probably won't notice that anything's changed. In fact, most people receiving messages won't notice anything, either—unless they read them on a device that ignores rich-text

formatting. Say, doesn't the boss check his email on a BlackBerry?



De-cutesify a sig with invisible white-on-white ... which won't be invisible on, say, a Treo.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY EAVES/GETTY IMAGES



Lost on Safari

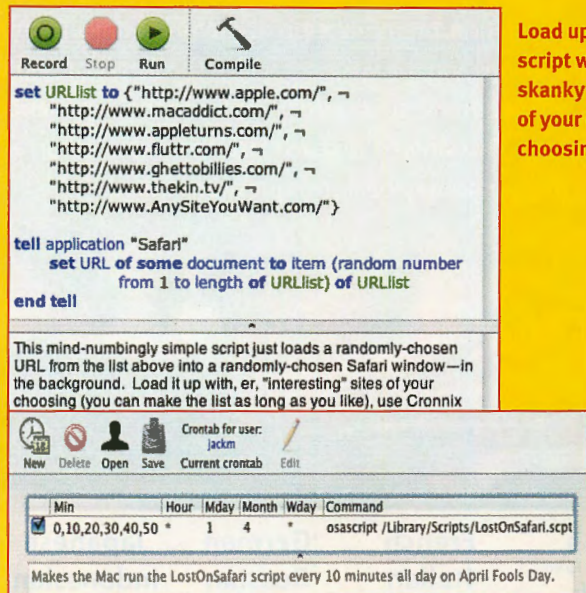
The single most unforgivable transgression of today's social contract is messing with someone's Web browser. So guess what we're going to do? We're going to make your victim's Safari wander off into Net regions unknown—all by itself. ▼

1 ASSEMBLE THE OFFENSIVENESS Open the LostOnSafari.scpt file (it's on this month's Disc) in AppleScript's Script Editor (/Applications/AppleScript) and edit the existing list of URLs to include whatever sites your evil little mind desires. If you're pulling this gag at work, a mess o' filthy, degenerate porn sites ought to work nicely. (Suuuure you don't know any.)

2 PLANT THE LANDMINE Save the script and—one way or another—get it onto your victim's Mac while they're at the water cooler. Stick it in /Library/Scripts on the startup disk.

3 SCHEDULE THE SHENANIGANS Now install and launch CronniX (on the Disc, or download from www.abstracture.de/cronnix), click New > Expert, then type 0,10,20,30,40,50 in the Minutes field; type an asterisk (*) in the Hour field and Day Of Week field, 1 in the Day Of Month field, and 4 in the Month field. In the Command field, type `osascript /Library/Scripts/LostOnSafari.scpt`, which is Unix-geek-speak for "run the LostOnSafari script every ten minutes on April 1." Save, quit, and skedaddle.

THE PUNCH LINE Nothing will happen right away, but every ten minutes on April Fools' Day, Safari will load one of the special Web sites from LostOnSafari.scpt—in the background, even, if your mark's working in another app at the time. Imagine the confusion when Yahoo Finance becomes CoedsWithSyrup.com—especially if the boss is watching. You can let the prank stop by itself on April 2 or rescue your prey if you're feeling magnanimous.



Load up this script with skanky URLs of your own choosing.

This is CronniX's way of saying "Mess with this poor sucker's browser every 10 minutes."

Scream Saver

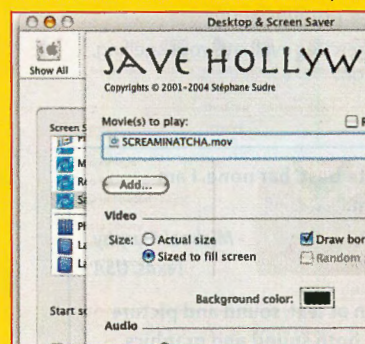
Seeing as how screen savers don't really save screens anymore, wasn't it considerate of Apple to build them into Mac OS X anyway, purely for our enjoyment and relaxation? After all, the default Flurry screen saver, with its pulsing colors and swooping tendrils of light, is better—and cheaper—than Prozac. But what if we cook up something a little less sedate for April Fools' Day, hm? ▼

1 CREATE THE HORROR If you have a DV camcorder and iMovie, record a cacophonous personal message for your victim—say, a tight close-up on your wild-eyed and painted face as you twitch and scream, "I'm comin' ta getcha! I'm comin' ta getcha! Woooooo!!" while firing off an air horn at irregular intervals. Once your video is as disturbing as possible, export it to hi-res QuickTime. Don't have the equipment to personalize this prank? No worries! Just download the loudest, highest-resolution, most appalling QuickTime movie you can find—one of the Adam Sandler flicks in Apple's collection of movie trailers (www.apple.com/trailers) should suffice.

2 SOUP UP THE SCREEN SAVER Transfer your movie over to your victim's Mac and toss it in /user name/Documents. Install SaveHollywood (on the Disc, or download from <http://s.sudre.free.fr/Software/SaveHollywood.html>) by dropping it in the /user name/Library/Screen Savers folder.

3 PREPARE THE PAIN Launch System Preferences, choose Desktop & Screen Saver, click the Screen Saver tab,

then click SaveHollywood. Click Options, then click Add to locate your freak-out flick; choose Sized To Fill Screen, click the Custom volume radio button, and crank up the volume



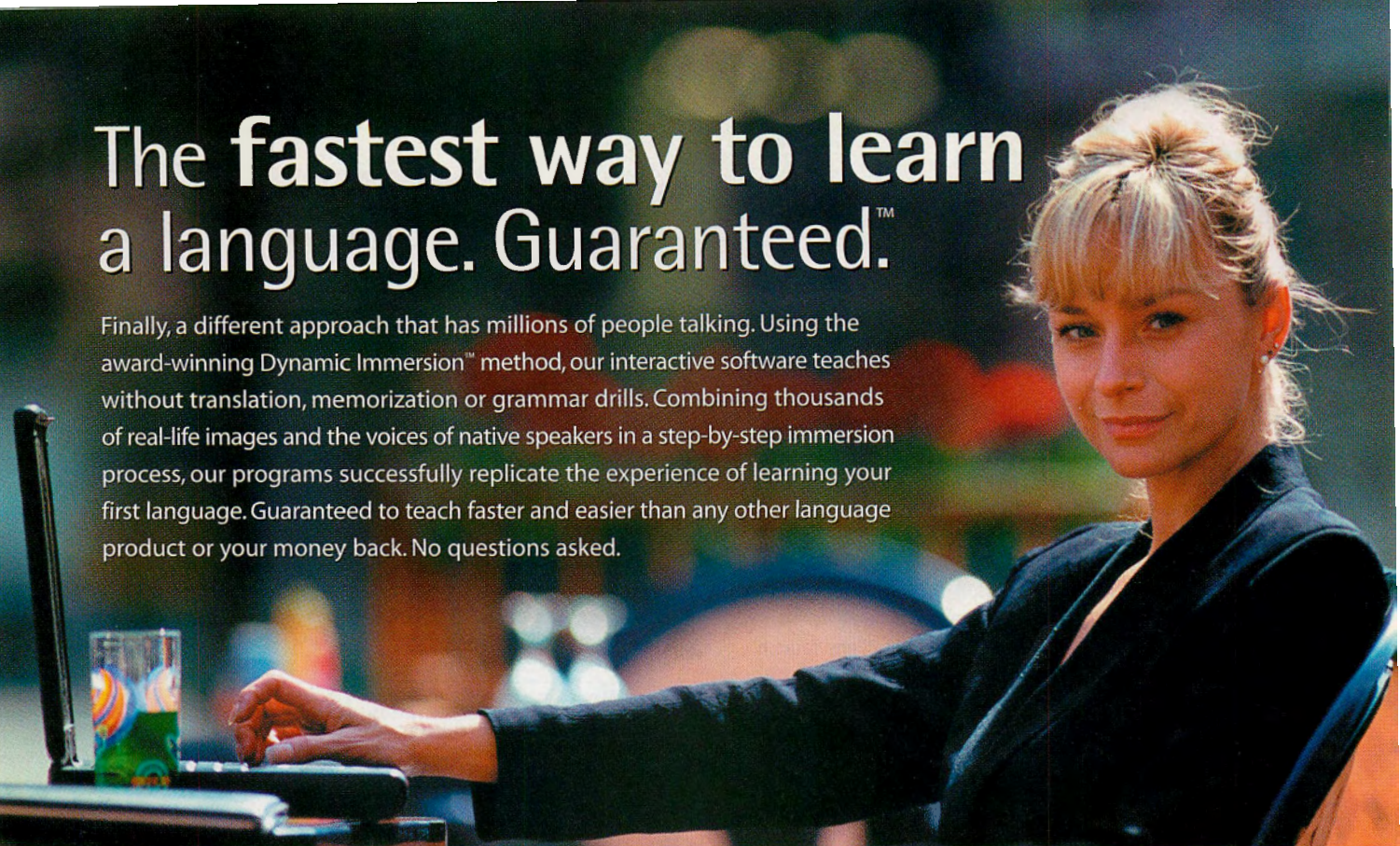
to the max. Close the Options sheet and set the screen saver to start after an appropriate interval. Close System Preferences. Voilà! A full-screen heart attack waiting to happen.

A calm and soothing Flurry? Not this time, bub.

Jack Miller has blown nearly eight years of his life spewing sarcasm over at As the Apple Turns (www.appleturns.com). Clearly the joke's on him.

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Get your digital lifestyle stylin' with the new iLife '05—it's preinstalled on your brand-spankin'-new Mac mini, along with built-in Bluetooth (to use with logear's Bluetooth Mini Mouse—Mac mini, Mini Mouse, get it?) and AirPort (Canary Wireless's Digital Hotspotter HS10 can help you find a good Wi-Fi signal). Use iPhoto 5 to organize the pics you shoot with your new Nikon Coolpix 4800, and learn new licks for your GarageBand sessions with eMedia's Rock Guitar Method. Watch your iMovie creations on Sony's PremierPro SDM-P234 display, and copy your iDVD discs for friends and family with ILY's SlimDVDup (pictured). Next month, we'll get back to serious work when we look at Apple's iWork '05, Eovia's Carrara 4, palmOne's Treo 650, and a lot more.

- 44 Bluetooth Mini Mouse *high-resolution mouse*
- 43 Coolpix 4800 *camera*
- 44 Digital Hotspotter HS10 *Wi-Fi finder*
- 47 Disk Jockey *storage-management tool*
- 34 iLife '05 *creativity suite*
- 39 iPod shuffle *MP3 player*
- 42 Isadora *multimedia programming environment*
- 48 MacDrive 6 *Windows utility*
- 47 Mathematica 5.1 *analysis software*
- 41 PremierPro SDM-P234 *LCD monitor*
- 38 QuarkXPress 6.5 *page-layout software*
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- 45 SlimDVDup *CD and DVD duplicator*
- 46 Stylus Photo R320 *inkjet printer*
- 44 WiFi Finder Plus *Wi-Fi finder*
- 44 WiFi Locator *Wi-Fi finder*
- 40 World of Warcraft *massively multiplayer online game*

PLUS: TheHotList

49 The best of the best from recent reviews.



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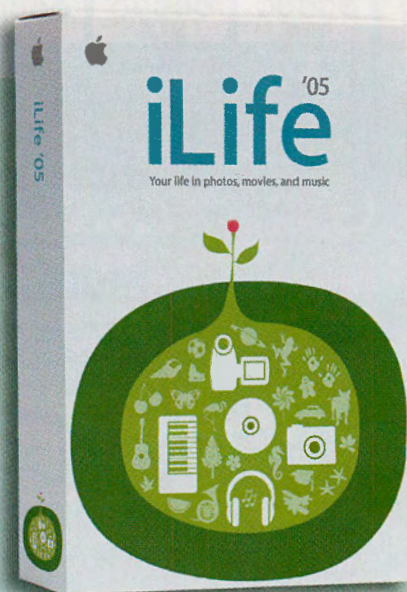


We'd spend our own hard-earned money on this product.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

iLife '05

SWEET CREATIVITY SUITE



Sure, we love playing games on our Macs, but the real fun starts when we fire up an app in Apple's iLife creativity suite. After creating photo albums and slideshows in iPhoto, transition-filled videos in iMovie HD, slick DVDs in iDVD, and head-banging beats in GarageBand 2, you just can't beat that "Hey! I actually created that! I'm *sooo* cool!" feeling.

In iLife's latest incarnation, each app has improved so you have more opportunities to seamlessly share your pictures, movies, and tunes among apps. Each app is broader, as well: There's more automation to make things simpler and more flexibility to give you increased creative control.

Here's our take on the top new niceties in iPhoto 5.0.1, iMovie HD, iDVD 5, and GarageBand 2. And, no, we didn't forget about iTunes—you can learn about its tweaks in our review of the iPod shuffle, p39.

iPhoto 5

When you first install iPhoto, you'll be prompted to upgrade to version 5.0.1. Do it. When iPhoto 5 was first released, it was plagued by a swarm of editing and organizing bugs; version 5.0.1 is far more stable. iPhoto will also need to convert all your images into its new format; the time required for that conversion depends, of course, on the size of your iPhoto Library and the speed of your processor. On our Dual 2GHz Power Mac G5, converting 6,000 images took only a few minutes; your mileage may vary. Just be sure to back up your Library before you convert it. Better safe than sorry.

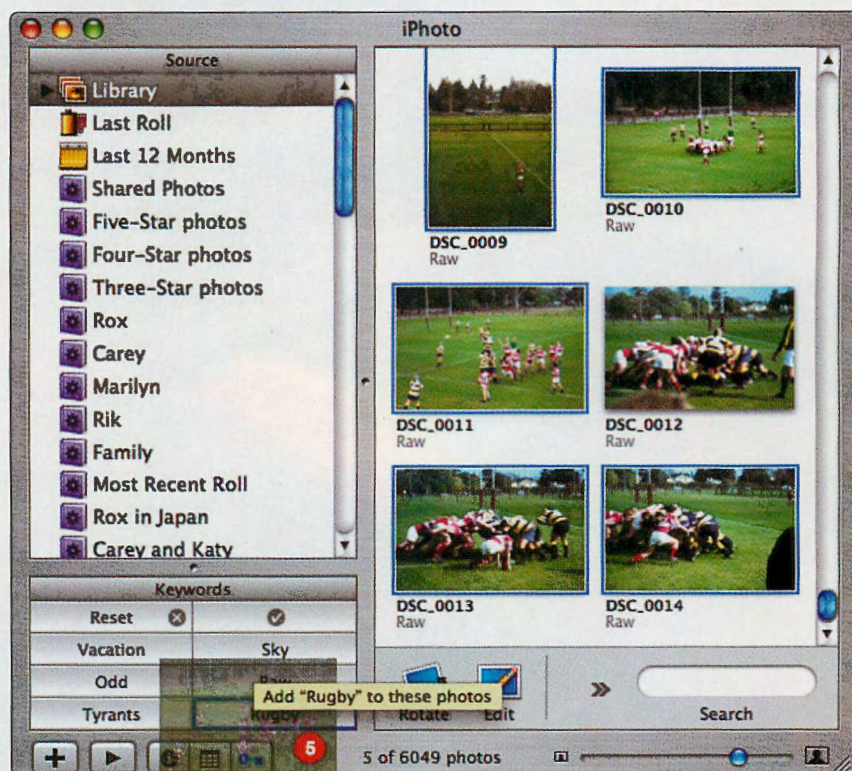
The most important differences between iPhoto 5 and iPhoto 4 are in the organizing, editing, and slideshow-creation tools. Some inspire a "Wow!" and some a "Ho hum." The new Keyword and Calendar panes that appear below the Source list, for example, are members of the "Wow!" contingent. You can now add to and edit a list of keywords in iPhoto > Preferences > Keywords and reorder the list with a simple drag and drop—that order is also reflected in buttons in the Keyword pane, into which you can drag and drop your photos to assign them keywords (Option-dragging removes keyword assignments). Clicking on keyword-labeled buttons while viewing an album or Library limits the images displayed to just those with the selected keywords.

The Calendar pane is equally slick;

just click to view images by creation date (Command-click to select non-contiguous months, weeks, or days). Albums can now be easily organized into folders as well.

Slideshow creation takes a quantum leap forward by giving you a wide range of control over each individual slide,

letting you toy with duration, transitions, panning and zooming, and more. You'll want to read iPhoto's Help docs to figure out how to use these controls, however—panning and zooming, for example, is powerful but not immediately intuitive. As you build your slideshow, iPhoto automatically saves all



Assigning keywords to a photo or group of photos is now a simple matter of dragging them into the new Keywords pane.



iPhoto's vastly improved Slideshow feature now includes slide-by-slide control over duration, transitions, and more.

your settings in Slideshow documents, accessible in the Source list. Slideshows (with all their transitions and effects intact) can be exported as QuickTime movies in three different resolutions: small (240 by 180 pixels), medium (320 by 240), and large (720 by 480).

The new editing tools are less impressive, but they're still welcome. An improved Enhance function works well, and a new Adjust icon displays a Mac OS 10.4-style translucent dashboard with image-control sliders and an RGB histogram. The controls work reasonably well, but no serious photo folks will be tempted to uninstall their copies of Adobe Photoshop—or

Photoshop Elements, for that matter. A new Straighten slider makes leveling horizons a snap, but it zooms in on your image in order to keep it filling the frame, narrowing vertical images and squishing horizontal ones. The red-eye reduction function now requires you to click in the middle of the eye you want to de-redden—a step backward in ease of use, in our opinion. There's also a Retouch function that should be renamed the Son Of Smudge tool—or maybe the Hard-To-Control Blurring Effect.

The least impressive new features are support for RAW files and MPEG-4 movies taken by point-and-shoot digital cameras. Actually, the term "support" is

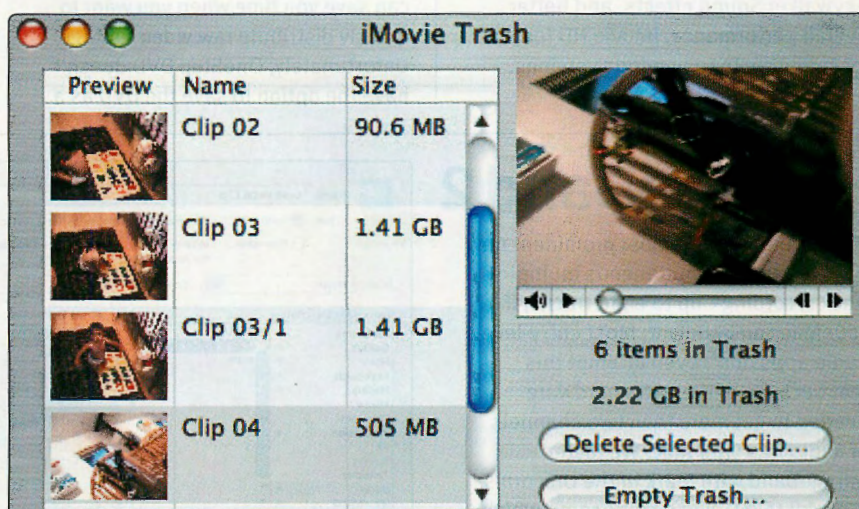
a bit of an overstatement. RAW files are merely converted into JPEGs—without any of the color-temperature control offered by Photoshop or even most of the image-editing software supplied by camera manufacturers (your RAW files are, however, saved in an Originals folder in iPhoto's chronologically ordered Library folder). MPEG-4 movies can be stored in your Library or albums, but they don't play in iPhoto—clicking on them launches them in QuickTime Player—and they can't be added to slideshows.

Finally, iPhoto's book-creation service has been enhanced with the addition of new themes, new sizes, double-sided printing, and softcover books. We didn't order any test books—we're the kind of photographers who print carefully color-corrected images using Photoshop and an Epson Stylus Photo 2200 (Oct/02, p42)—but for the casual snapshooter, the books appear to be a good deal. For that same shooter, iPhoto 5 is an equally good deal.—*Rik Myslewski*

iMovie HD

Apple wants you to be excited about High Definition video support—it's the Year of HD, as Steve Jobs proclaimed during his Mac Expo keynote back in January. The problem is that the only consumer-level HD video camera available at press time is Sony's HDR-FX1 (\$3,499, www.sony.com), and it costs more than a Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5. What's more, the irony of using a \$79 app to edit video from a \$3,499 camera hurts our collective lil' brains. There's no doubt that HD will eventually be the reigning video format, but until HD cameras hover around the \$1,000 mark, the Year of HD won't arrive.

That said, iMovie HD is ready, willing, and able to edit native HD video, specifically HDV-formatted video in either 1080i (interlaced 1,920-by-1,080-pixel resolution) or 720p (progressive 1,280-by-720-pixel resolution). You can't create an HD DVD yet, but at least iMovie HD lets you save your HD video back out



You can now sift through iMovie HD's Trash to find stuff you didn't mean to throw out.

to your camera, which you then connect to your HDTV for viewing while you wait for an HD DVD burner to hit the market.

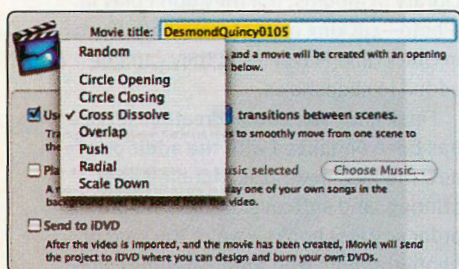
The iMovie HD feature that most excites us is Magic iMovie, which automatically creates movies—all you have to do is plug in your camera via

FireWire (there's no USB support), name your video, select a transition from a list of seven (or randomize the transitions), add music, and decide if you want to send the movie to iDVD when it's done.

For raw video footage, Magic iMovie works well—you can even edit a movie

after Magic iMovie is done with it. There are major limitations, however. For example, Magic iMovie always rewinds your tape to the beginning; you can't designate a start point, nor can you set your tape to the beginning of a scene you want to use. There's also no way to set when and where Magic iMovie should stop recording video—if you have an extended blank gap between scenes on your tape, Magic iMovie thinks it's done its duty and creates the movie for you without the post-gap footage.

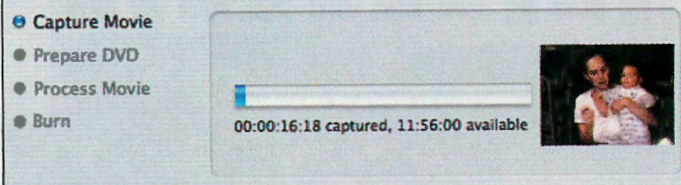
Other things we like in iMovie HD include better Trash management (you



Your transition choices are limited when making a Magic iMovie in iMovie HD.

can now sift through your Trash rather than dumping it all at once), 16-by-9-aspect-ratio support for DV cameras that can capture widescreen video, new Skywalker Sound effects, and better overall performance. iMovie HD feels a lot smoother than previous versions.
—Roman Loyola

Creating Your OneStep DVD



OneStep is a great way to make DVDs directly from your camera's tapes.

iDVD 5

The new OneStep DVD feature in iDVD 5 is a lot like iMovie HD's Magic Movie—it's a no-nonsense way to make a DVD of your video footage. All you have to do is connect your camera, start OneStep DVD, insert a DVD±R/RW (That's no typo—you can finally use any single-sided DVD disc format. Yay! But you can't use a dual-layer disc. Boo!), and fire it up. OneStep DVD then rewinds your tape to the beginning and continues to the very end—unless you have extended blank gaps in between scenes. Similar to iMovie, when OneStep DVD comes to one of these gaps, it thinks your tape is done. Don't you hate it when software is as dumb as a chimp in a Super Bowl ad?

When OneStep DVD is done, you end up with a copy of your taped footage on an auto-playing DVD—this handy feature can save you time when you want to quickly distribute raw video footage. Unfortunately, OneStep DVD doesn't have the option to save the DVD as a

disc image for burning later. You can, however, take the OneStep DVD that you just made and create a disc image in Mac OS X's Disk Utility. Sounds backward, right? That's because it is.

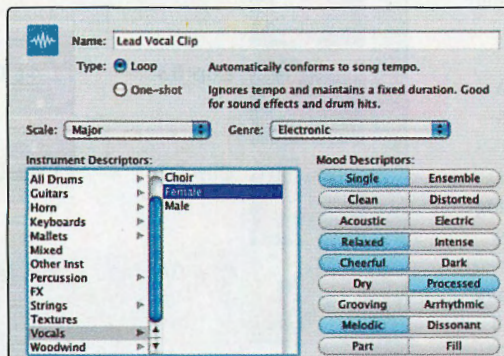
Speaking of disc images, if you create one of your DVD, you can then use a DVD burner other than the internal SuperDrive. We had no problem using a disc image and Roxio Toast 6 Titanium (\$99.95, www.roxio.com) to burn copies of our DVD with Sony's DRX-710UL (\$229.99, www.sony.com) external DVD burner.

iDVD's 15 new (and somewhat cloying) themes now feature nifty Drop Zones—mobile framed areas in iDVD menus into which you can drop video footage or a still image. Drop Zone-enhanced iDVD themes, as cheesy as they may be, have a professional polish to them; your audience may even think your DVD was made by a professional. A banal pro, mayhap, but a pro nonetheless.—Roman Loyola

GarageBand 2

GarageBand 2's most prominent new feature is simultaneous multiple-track recording—up to eight tracks, if your Mac can handle it. Most entry-level audio apps don't even attempt this feat because of the extra hardware needed to get more than two channels of audio into your Mac. We tested GarageBand with Mark of the Unicorn's 828mkII (\$749, www.motu.com), which has an eight-input FireWire interface. GarageBand successfully recorded eight simultaneous tracks as well as a live Software Instrument performance on a Dual 2GHz Power Mac G5 and, more impressively, a 1GHz PowerBook G4 (Titanium).

GarageBand 2's novel Enhance Tuning and Enhance Timing features take not-



GarageBand 2 now lets you save your recorded tracks as loops, complete with attributes.

Enhance Tuning worked fine when correcting the pitch of instruments, but we were also surprised how well it worked on vocals—but only if the vocal intonation was just slightly off. So no, you can't make William Hung sound like Kelly Clarkson.

Recorded audio (Real

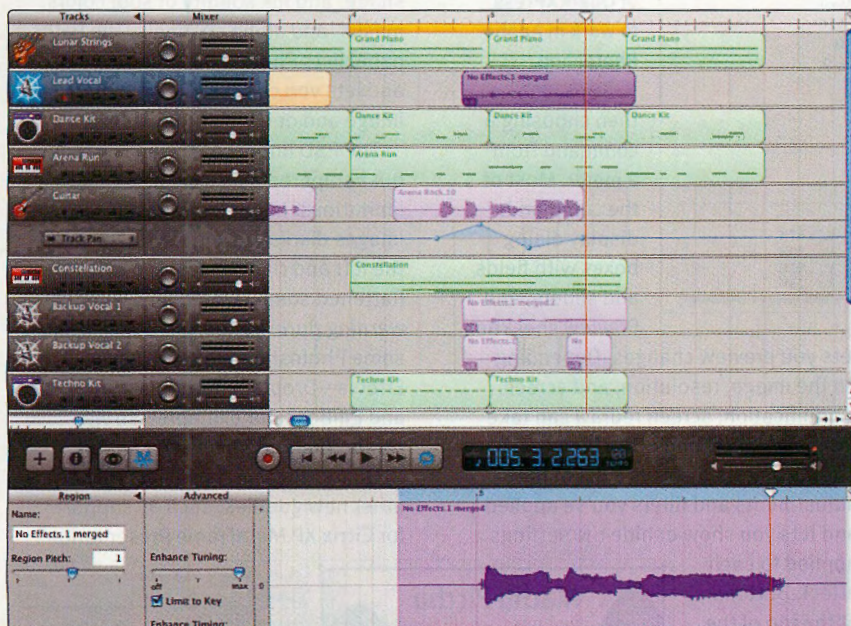
Instruments in GarageBand lingo) is now treated like a GarageBand loop, adjustable for tempo and key changes. But this adjustability doesn't work if you import an existing audio file into GarageBand instead of recording it from scratch. For example, if you import a 120-bpm (beats per minute), C-major

so-superbly-performed audio tracks (guitars, vocals, and more) and make them sound better. The Enhance Timing slider improves timing by nudging the peaks of your recorded audio closer to the beat subdivisions (1/4 to 1/16), and it instantly vaulted our sloppy guitar picking from punk to Parkening.

loop into a GarageBand project, then decide you want the project to be 125 bpm and in D major, all the Real Instrument and Software Instrument recordings will adjust appropriately, but the imported loop will stay 120 bpm and C major. There is a workaround, however: Adjustable audio tracks are purple; non-adjustable audio tracks are yellow. If you record a beat of silence on the same track as your yellow track, then

Software Instrument performances to good-ol'-fashion note-and-stave notation in real time. Unfortunately, this feature is quite rudimentary: You can only view one instrument at a time, and you can't print scores—a serious limitation.

On the plus side, GarageBand now lets you reuse your Real Instrument tracks by saving them as loops. Just like the included loops, you can assign loop



With eight-track support and other new features, GarageBand 2 tiptoes its way closer to pro territory.

place this newly recorded purple track in front of the yellow, then join them with—what else?—the Join command, you can create a new adjustable-audio file. This workaround is so easy we can't think of a reason why GarageBand shouldn't be able to do it for you. Fix it, Cupertino!

GarageBand can now transcribe your

attributes (including mood keywords) so they'll be searchable in the Loop Browser.

If the new features make you think that GarageBand 2 might be a resource hog, your impression is correct. You'll benefit from fast processors (two of them, ideally), fast hard drives, and a lot of RAM. RAM is good.—*Andrew Tokuda*

The Bottom Line

iLife '05 adds an impressive set of enhancements to Apple's creativity suite, but before you plunk down your dollar-short-of-four-score-and-twenty, think for a moment: Do you actually *need* all the new features of iLife '05, especially if you already own iLife '04?

That depends upon which app you use most frequently. If you mostly use iMovie, you may not care about the HD support (yet), and you could live without Magic iMovie. On the other hand, iPhoto 5 and GarageBand 2 are definitely worth \$79 if you're a casual photographer or musician. If creating DVDs is your passion, iDVD's new OneStep will save you time, and the new themes may be tempting. We say, "Buy it." iLife '05 is a whole lotta software for a wee lil' price.—*Rik Myslewski*

iLife '05



COMPANY: Apple

CONTACT: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com

PRICE: \$79

REQUIREMENTS: 733MHz G4 for iDVD 5; 600MHz G3 for GarageBand 2 (G4 for GarageBand instruments); G3 for iPhoto 5, iMovie HD, and iTunes 4.7.1; Mac OS 10.2.6 or later; 256MB of RAM; 1,024-by-768-pixel display; QuickTime 6.4; 4.3GB disk space for complete installation (250MB for installation without GarageBand).



iPhoto 5



GOOD NEWS: Vastly improved organizational tools. Killer slideshow-creation features. Enhanced image editing.

BAD NEWS: Close-to-useless Retouch function. Straighten tool changes image's aspect ratio. Weak RAW and MPEG-4 support.

iMovie HD



GOOD NEWS: HD video support (both 1080i and 720p). Magic iMovie feature creates movies for you. Widescreen-aspect-ratio (16 by 9) support. Excellent new sound effects, video effects, and transitions. Better overall performance.

BAD NEWS: You need an expensive HD camera to get HD video footage. Can't set tape start and end points in Magic iMovie. Limited selection of transitions in Magic iMovie.

iDVD 5



GOOD NEWS: 15 new themes that can move photos or video footage across a menu screen. OneStep DVD makes DVDs for you. Supports DVD±R/RW media. Better Map view.

BAD NEWS: No dual-layer DVD support. No disc image option in OneStep DVD. Can't set tape start and end points for OneStep DVD.

GarageBand 2

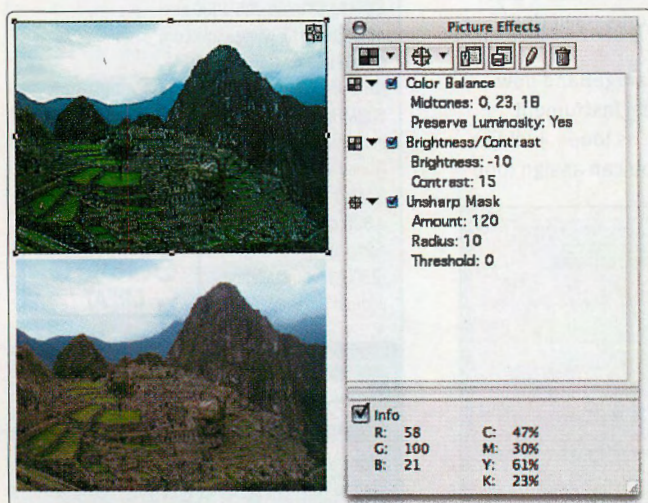


GOOD NEWS: New features add creative possibilities. Fixes imperfect performances well.

BAD NEWS: New features require pro-level hardware. Imported audio requires workarounds for adjustability. Resource hog.

QuarkXPress 6.5

ENHANCED PAGE-LAYOUT SOFTWARE



The free update to QuarkXPress 6 lets you make image adjustments and apply filters—no more stepping out of QuarkXPress to work in Adobe Photoshop.

then choosing a command from a menu. Most of the commands display dialog boxes with fields and sliders, and a Preview checkbox

Quark isn't known for releasing frequent updates to its powerhouse page-layout app, QuarkXPress—but the times, they are a-changin'. QuarkXPress 6.5 is a free upgrade to QuarkXPress 6 that includes a handy set of image-editing features and the ability to import native Photoshop files. While this Quark's not without some quirks, it's still a significant update.

If you're used to (and tired of) using Adobe Photoshop to make changes to pixel-based images, you'll like the new image-editing QuarkVista XTension. QuarkVista adds a Picture Effects palette that includes Adjustments and Filters menus. The commands in Adjustments are a subset of Photoshop's Image > Adjustments capabilities and include Levels, Curves, Brightness/Contrast, Color Balance, Hue/Saturation, Selective Color, Gamma Correction, Desaturate, Invert, Threshold, and Posterize. Filters include several commands available in Photoshop's Filter menus, including Despeckle, Gaussian Blur, Unsharp Mask, Solarize, Diffuse, Emboss, Embossing Effects, Edge Detection, Trace Contour, Add Noise, and Median.

You apply image adjustments and filters by simply selecting the image and

lets you preview changes. Depending on the image, resolution, and screen magnification, screen redraw can take from 5 to 30 seconds. The Picture Effects palette displays a list of the adjustments and filters you've applied and lets you show or hide the settings applied to each effect. Buttons at the top of the palette let you load presets or save the current settings as a preset.

You can save all or a subset of your changes to the source-image file or to a new TIFF, JPEG, BMP, EPS, GIF, PICT, PNG, or Scitex CT file. If you don't save changes to a graphic file, QuarkXPress applies the changes only in the layout file.

Import native PSD. The new PSD Import XTension lets you import native Adobe Photoshop files and manipulate layers, channels, and paths. When you select a picture box that contains a PSD file, the controls in the PSD Import palette become available. In the

Layers panel, you can show and hide, change the blending mode, and adjust the opacity of individual layers. The Channels panel lets you show and hide individual channels; display channels in color or grayscale; and modify the color, shade, and ink solidity of spot colors, masks, and alpha channels. The Paths panel lists Photoshop clipping paths and lets you choose one for clipping the image and one for wrapping text.

The PSD Import XTension is handy but hampered by a few kinks and limitations. In our testing, some simple images displayed with artifacts along the left and right edges; the software flattened some layered files without warning during import; it also flattened some Photoshop files with Layer Effects—Drop Shadow, Inner Shadow, and Emboss, for example—so we couldn't modify them after import.

QuarkXPress 6.5 also includes a few other new goodies, such as support for Citrix XP MetaFrame Presentation



Now you can import native Adobe Photoshop files and manipulate layers, channels, and paths.

Servers and the ability to group tables with other items.

The bottom line. While QuarkXPress 6.5 offers some useful features that may slow the migration of QuarkXPress users to Adobe InDesign CS, the true test won't come until QuarkXPress 7 is released. If version 7 closes the growing feature gap with InDesign, layout artists may have a reason to stick with QuarkXPress.
—John Cruise



COMPANY: Quark
CONTACT: 303-894-8888,
www.quark.com
PRICE: Free

REQUIREMENTS: G3, Mac OS
10.3 or later, 128MB RAM, 230MB
disk space

GOOD NEWS: Can't beat the upgrade price. Nice set of image-editing features. Can import native Photoshop files.
BAD NEWS: PSD Import XTension is buggy and limited. Doesn't support layer effects in Photoshop files.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

iPod shuffle

REMARKABLE MP3 PLAYER



Before we start the luvfest for Apple's iPod shuffle, let's get one thing straight: This weensy lil' unit is not the end-all-and-be-all of MP3 players. It has no display, no support for Apple Lossless-encoded tunes, and only one measly playlist—but it's wildly successful in fulfilling its raison d'être: shuffling through (or sequentially playing) a few hours' worth of music. Bam! Editors' Choice—and here's why.

The iPod shuffle is designed for places and events where we'd rather not subject our iPods or iPod minis to potential abuse, such as gyms, mountain-bike trails, riots, and bouts of good ol' office stupidity—for example, our shuffle went flying during our lanyard-spinning cap-grip test, smacking hard into a steel filing cabinet; it didn't miss a beat.

Already owning a full-size iPod does wonders for our shuffle-lust. Actually, the shuffle helps us appreciate the original iPod's massive capacity and realize how rarely we need more than 200 songs when we're away from the Mac that hosts our full music

speakers, the shuffle sounds every bit as good as our other iPods. Plug it into your Mac, then fill it up manually—or let iTunes 4.7.1's AutoFill replace some or all of the stale songs with new ones from your library or any playlist. Need to store a few files, flash-drive style? Just dial the amount of space to reserve for your files in iTunes > Preferences > iPod.

The thumb-operated buttons are completely intuitive, with a play/pause button in the center, volume-up and volume-down buttons above and below, and forward and reverse buttons to the right and left. Holding the play/pause button for three seconds toggles the hold function, so you can stash the shuffle in your pocket without worry. Around back, a simple slider switches the unit between Off, Playlist, and Shuffle, and you can press the little button below the slider to check the battery's status. Speaking of which, the battery—charged

over USB—outlived its claimed 12-hour lifespan (by three hours!), which was a nice surprise.

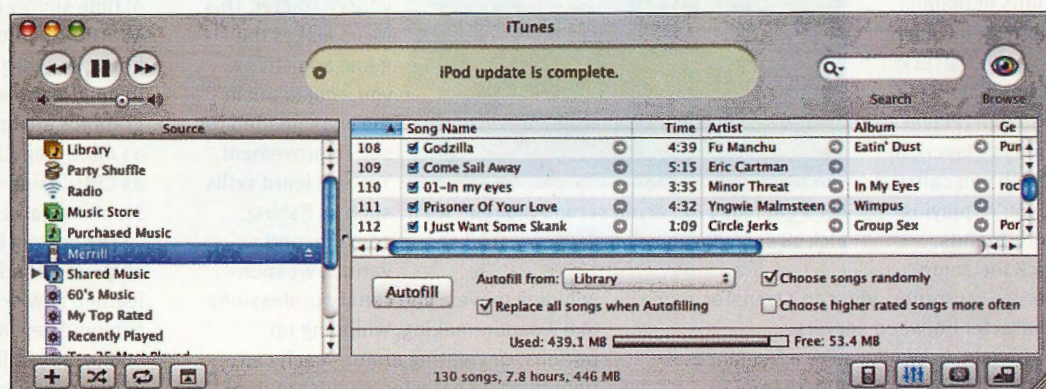
We would heartily recommend the shuffle to anyone, but owners of eMacs and iMac G3s should know they won't be able to fit a shuffle into their Mac's overly bezeled USB ports without a USB extender cable (for more tips on living with your shuffle, see *Bug of the Month*, p16). If there's one thing to bitch and moan about, it's the cryptic flashing green and orange LEDs that tell you what the shuffle is doing—you'll either memorize the sequences, carry the included wallet-size decoder card, or (most likely) ignore them completely.

The bottom line. No, the iPod shuffle can't hold your entire library—not even just your Van Halen tunes (Gary Cherone tracks included)—but it's not meant to anyway. We enjoy temporarily toting a tad of our tunes on a small, light, durable player.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

Our iPod shuffle has been nothing but a joy to use.

library. We're still debating whether the lack of an LCD is a serious shuffle shortcoming, but the more we use this wee white wonder, the less we pine for an LCD—especially while driving. Navigating a playlist while navigating Oakland's MacArthur maze is even more dangerous than using a cell phone while driving.

Start the luvfest. In fact, our 512MB shuffle has been nothing but a joy to use. With a decent pair of 'phones, earbuds, or powered



Yngwie Malmsteen and Minor Threat, together at last. Life is random.

COMPANY: Apple
CONTACT: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com
PRICE: \$99 (512MB), \$149 (1GB)

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.8 or 10.3.4 or later (10.3.6 or later recommended for use with low-power USB ports), iTunes 4.7.1

GOOD NEWS: Cheaper, smaller, more skip-resistant, and more durable than other iPods.

BAD NEWS: No display. Doesn't play Apple Lossless-encoded tunes. Doesn't come free with a full-size iPod.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO



World of Warcraft

CAPTIVATING ONLINE GAME

When Blizzard announced that World of Warcraft was coming, we planned accordingly. We turned in articles early. We did our holiday shopping in September. We freed up our calendars. Why? Because there was a good chance we'd spend every free moment playing this massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG). And we've done just that, saving every online minute.

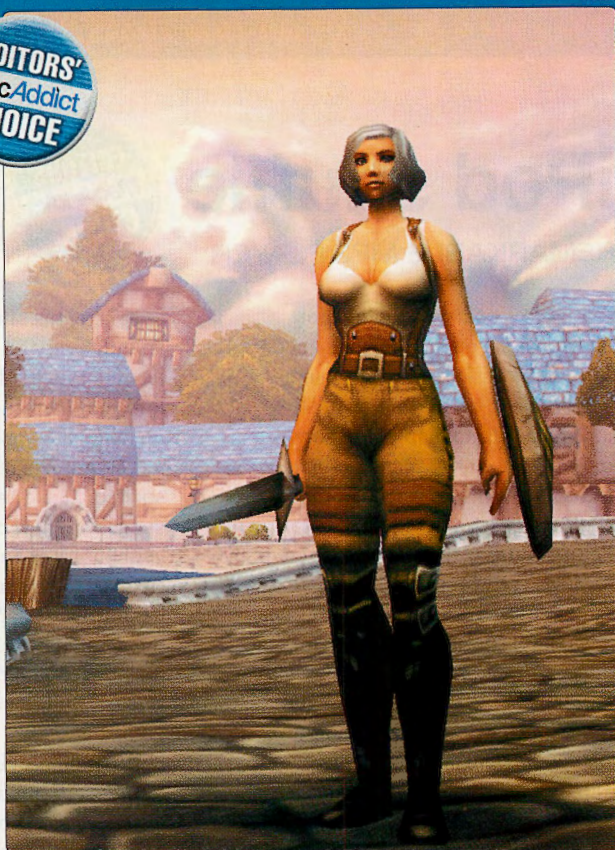
After installing WoW, you open an online account with Blizzard. There's a month-to-month plan (\$14.99 per month), a three-month plan (\$13.99 per month), or a six-month plan (\$12.99 per month). After opening the account, you create a character in either the Alliance faction or

(NPCs), which aren't controlled by other players. You'll be asked to collect plant samples, kill a specific number of creatures, protect other AI characters in precarious positions, deliver messages, scout areas for danger, and more (you can ask other online players to help you, if you'd like). After completing a quest, you're rewarded experience points by the NPC.

The quests have limited variability; high-level quests are similar to early ones, but they're harder to accomplish. Just when you've plowed through one, the next will challenge your strategic thinking. You'll be forced to "think different" about how to use your character's skills.

Character development. If World of Warcraft were just about completing quests, we'd be done with the game by now—the core of the game, however, is building your character. This focus makes the game addictive—you want to put in the work needed for self-improvement. You can learn skills such as fishing, cooking, and various weapon-

wielding moves; you can try professions like weapon-making, whipping up potions, or creating armor—each can benefit your character or your group of online players. Plus, you can experiment



SWF, career-oriented, looking for dragon to slay.

The core of World of Warcraft is building your character.

the Horde—it's not a choice of good versus evil, but rather a decision between a race that's more human (Alliance) and a race that resembles fantastic beasts (Horde). You're not limited to one character; you can create several different ones and play them in separate sessions.

The next step is to pick a realm, or server, on which to play. There are two different kinds of realms: Normal, in which you can't attack other players; and PvP (Player versus Player), in which you can. If you're playing with friends, pick the same server—currently, you can't transfer your character between servers.

Quests. In WoW, you're a freelance adventurer who gets quests from AI entities called non-player characters



Let's get ready to...er, on second thought, we'll pick on someone our own size.

with different battle techniques and weapons—the more you use a weapon, for example, the higher your chances are of landing a severe blow. After you battle an enemy, right-clicking its carcass loots it for its goodies. You can end up with anything—cash, food, weapons, armor—or sometimes nothing. You can use whatever items you find; if you gather the right herbs, for example, you can make potions that increase your strength.

Your quests often involve moving to a remote location—you'll spend lots of time simply running (that's life in an MMORPG, unfortunately). Your commute, however, will give you the opportunity to admire the scenery. And while the graphics are spectacular, they aren't as mind-bogglingly revolutionary—or as CPU-taxing—as they are in visually stunning games such as Doom 3.

The bottom line. We've finished dozens of quests, tried lots of new characters, learned new skills and professions, explored new worlds, made new friends online, and still we want more. World of Warcraft is one of the best games we've played—ever.—*Roman Loyola*



COMPANY: Blizzard

CONTACT: 800-953-7669, www.blizzard.com

PRICE: \$49.99, \$79.99 (Collector's Edition), \$12.99 to \$14.99 for subscription plans

REQUIREMENTS: 933MHz G4, Mac OS 10.3.5 or later, 512MB RAM (recommended), 32MB video card, 4GB disk space, 56K Internet connection

GOOD NEWS: Excellent graphics. Good gameplay variety.

BAD NEWS: Not enough time in the day to play.

MacAddict RATED



AWESOME

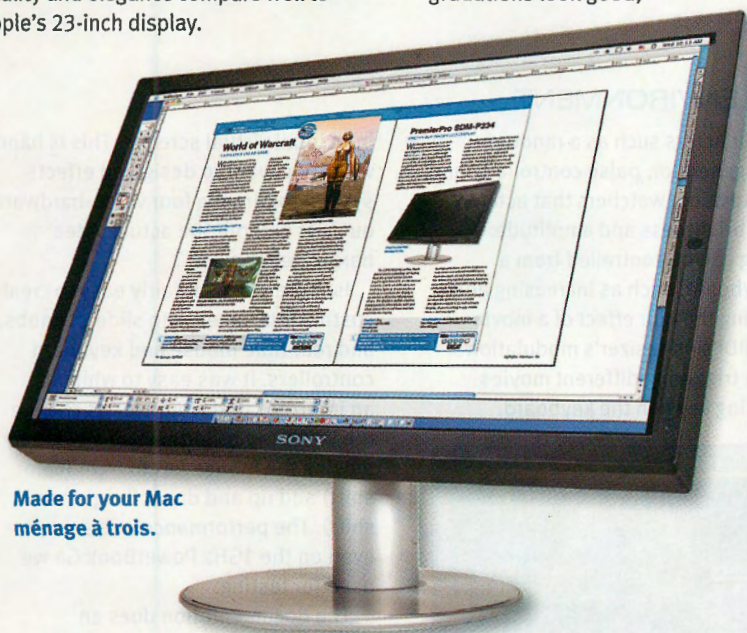
PremierPro SDM-P234

PRETTY BUT PRICEY LCD DISPLAY

We thought that Sony's 23-inch PremierPro SDM-P234 could give Apple's 23-inch Cinema Display HD (Nov/04, p39) tough competition—then Apple dropped the price of the 23-inch display to \$1,799. Coupled with the SDM-P234's lack of USB and FireWire ports, the fact that it costs \$200 more than the Apple display makes it hard for the SDM-P234 to compete. That's too bad; the SDM-P234's image quality and elegance compare well to Apple's 23-inch display.

Three's company. The SDM-P234 has a pair of HD15 ports, a DVI port, three stereo audio-in ports, and one stereo audio-out port—you can connect three computers at one time and switch between them using a button on the right front side. You neat freaks can thread all the cables through the display's tube base; latches keep the cables in place.

The SDM-P234's image quality is excellent. Colors are accurate, gradations look good,



Made for your Mac
ménage à trois.

The SDM-P234 has a thin, black plastic bezel extending 0.67 inches from the actual screen. On the bezel's right front side are the button controls, which are difficult to see until they light up at your touch—a cool way to maintain the display's aesthetics without sacrificing ease of use. The display's stylish stand is comprised of a silver plastic tube and a lazy Susan-like metal base that lets you rotate the display.

text is crisp and clean, and the brightness is even—we noticed no difference from the Apple 23-inch Cinema Display HD. When playing DVD movies, however, we preferred the smoother image quality of the Apple display.

The bottom line. If looks are everything—both on screen and around it—then the SDM-P234 is a viable alternative to Apple's 23-inch Cinema Display, if you're willing to pay a little more.—Roman Loyola

COMPANY: Sony
CONTACT: 866-357-7669,
www.sony.com
PRICE: \$1,999

REQUIREMENTS: G4, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later,
nVidia video card or ATI Radeon 7500 or better, DVI
or HD15 port

GOOD NEWS: Elegant looks. Great image quality. Can connect three computers at one time.

BAD NEWS: Lacks USB or FireWire ports. More expensive than Apple's 23-inch Cinema Display HD.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

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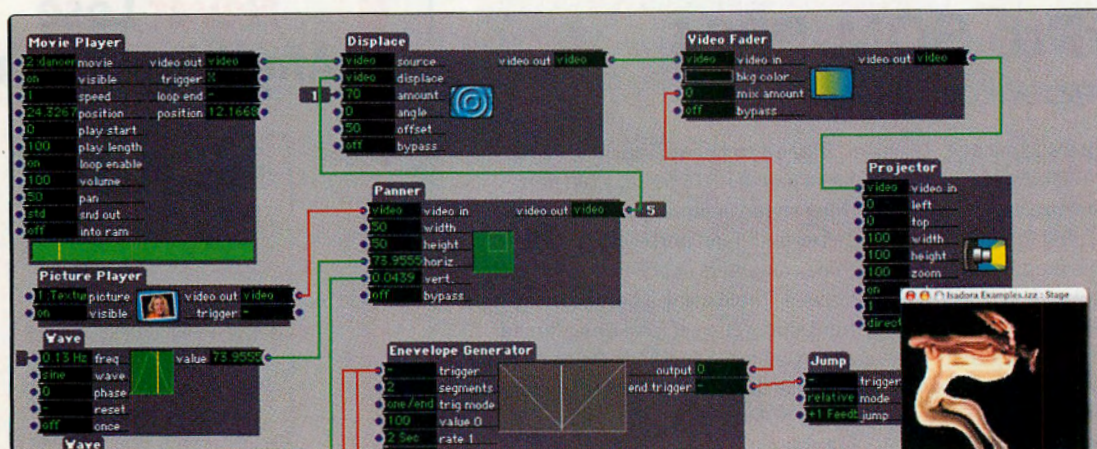


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Isadora's flowchart interface takes much of the pain out of building video effects such as this displacement-distortion engine.

Isadora

SLICK MULTIMEDIA PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENT

TroikaTronix's Isadora is an awesomely cool programming environment that lets video artists and veejays manipulate video, images, and MIDI using a highly interactive visual interface, a robust array of effects and tools, and wonderfully responsive performance. Isadora isn't as complex as Cycling 74's Max/MSP (May/04, p56), but it's capable of many of the same kinds of video-processing magic tricks.

Isadora's interface is based on a slick visual flowchart of video- and audio-processing modules called Actors, which are linked together to create virtual processing machines. After installation, we created a simple video mixer that played two QuickTime movies in separate windows with fun distortion effects. It's much easier to do this in Isadora than in anything else we've ever seen; this fluidity leads to experimentation, the key to visual creativity. While everything worked in real time, we limited ourselves to small 320 by 240 movies—Isadora is dependant on processor speed, so if you want to work with multiple DV-resolution movies, get a Power Mac G5.

Video effects. Video effects include everything from keying, color correction, and blurring to esoteric distortion and pixelation. There are also control and

generator Actors such as a random-number generator, pulse controllers, and video and audio watchers that actively monitor brightness and amplitude. Anything can be controlled from a MIDI keyboard, such as increasing and decreasing the blur effect of a movie with a MIDI synthesizer's modulation wheel or triggering different movies by pressing keys on the keyboard.



Isadora makes it easy to customize and expand interfaces such as this versatile video mixer.

Isadora's mathematical- and logical-manipulation Actors are critical to building sophisticated visual effects with precision and flexibility.

Another compelling aspect of Isadora is how it handles up to four simultaneous video outputs, regardless of how many video cards are in your Mac. We simulated a four-projector system on a single screen, with two source movies driving four different video effects piped to their own

individual virtual screens. This is handy when you want to design an effects system for driving four video-hardware outputs without the actual video hardware present.

Isadora makes it fairly easy to create custom interfaces with sliders, knobs, and real-time mouse and keyboard controllers. It was easy to whip up an interface that would let us change the color and brightness of a video by moving the mouse left to right (color shift) and up and down (brightness shift). The performance was snappy, even on the 1GHz PowerBook G4 we used for testing.

The documentation does an excellent job describing the powers of the application and the many Actor modules, and the included tutorial files are decent—though we would have appreciated more. We were frustrated by Isadora's lack of a contextual help screen and zoom controls within the main visual editing window. We also didn't like the fact that you're forced to switch screens between the control interface and underlying flowchart-editing modes (something that TroikaTronix hinted might be fixed in the next version).

The bottom line. Isadora is an extremely capable program—it can even be downright inspiring.—David Biedny



COMPANY: TroikaTronix
CONTACT: 718-218-6775,
www.troikatronix.com
PRICE: \$350

REQUIREMENTS: G3, Mac OS 9.0
or 10.1 or later, 128MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Slick visual programming metaphor. Real-time performance. Deep set of video- and audio-processing modules.
BAD NEWS: No contextual help for Actors. Lack of zoom controls for module-editing window.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

Coolpix 4800

UP-CLOSE-AND-PERSONAL POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERA

Nikon's Web site claims that the Coolpix 4800 is "the smallest 8.3x zoom camera in its class." We wonder what class they're talking about; we don't know of any *other* point-and-shoot 4-megapixel camera with an 8.3x optical zoom—this baby has a Zoom Nikkor ED glass lens that's the 35mm equivalent of a 36–300mm lens. Impressive.

The 4.2-by-2.6-by-2.2-inch 4800 has 15 scene modes, which set up the camera automatically based on the conditions of the shot. Four of the modes (Portrait, Landscape, Sports, and Night Portrait) are located on a selector dial, which also includes an auto mode. The other 11 modes (Party/Indoor, Beach/Snow, Sunset, Dusk/Dawn, Night Landscape, Close-Up, Museum, Fireworks Show, Copy, Backlight, and Panorama Assist) are accessed by turning the dial to Scene and then using the directional pad on the right to select your mode (displayed on the 1.8-inch LCD to the left).

The camera doesn't come with a memory card—it uses SD cards—but it does have 13.5MB of built-in memory. That's enough to hold seven images at the highest-quality setting, 14 at normal, and 27 at the lowest setting. If you use the camera's movie mode, you can capture 24 seconds of video at 640 by 480 pixels, 49 seconds at 320 by 240, and 197 seconds at 160 by 120.

The 4800 is too big for a pocket but small enough to easily stash in a standard-sized purse or fanny-pack pouch. You don't want to shove it in a pocket, anyway—the integrated lens cover is flimsy, and we accidentally knocked it out of alignment during a hasty "quick, grab the camera" moment. This prevented the cover from opening

correctly and caused it to block our shot. Fortunately, we put the cover back into position with some gentle nudging, but another flag arose after a few weeks of use: The 4800's lens started to creak as it focused.

Close-ups. Despite some of our construction concerns, the 4800 feels

flexibility in your shots, but you need to have a steady hand—jitter becomes more apparent the closer you zoom, and it can blur your images. Think tripod—or at least caffeine reduction.

The overall color quality of the 4800 is quite good for a point-and-shoot camera. Our images were lively and accurate,



With an 8.3x optical zoom, you can get up close and personal without getting up close.

solid. The right-hand grip helps your grasp as you frame a shot, and your thumb rests nicely between the zoom controls and the directional pad. When you are fiddling with the settings, your thumb can easily access the buttons—everything is intuitive and easy to use.

When you want to use the zoom, all you need to do is press the large zoom buttons with your thumb. Being able to use such a lengthy zoom gives you more

especially in daylight or well-lit areas. The one thing we didn't like about the image quality was the noise we found in many of our pictures; not surprisingly, the noise increased in lower-light conditions.

The bottom line. The 4800 won't fit in your pocket, but it will get you up close and personal with your subjects. Just make sure you treat it with a little bit of tender lovin' care.—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: Nikon
CONTACT: 800-645-6687,
www.nikonusa.com
PRICE: \$399

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped
Mac, Mac OS 10.1.5

GOOD NEWS: Accurate color. 8.3x optical zoom.
Easy to use.

BAD NEWS: Noisy images. No image-stabilization
for zoom. Questionable sturdiness.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA BERG

Digital Hotspotter HS10, WiFi Locator, and WiFi Finder Plus

RELIABLE WI-FI FINDERS

We've been nonplussed by Wi-Fi finders such as Kensington's WiFi Finder (Nov/03, p58) and Marware's WiFi Spy (Dec/04, p48), but we didn't give up hope. Our patience has now been rewarded—we finally discovered three reliable finders that can also double as props the next time we attend a Star Trek convention.—Noah Tsutsui

CANARY WIRELESS HS10 The HS10 is first on our list not only because it worked out that way alphabetically, but also because we wanted to let you know right off the bat that the HS10 is our favorite hotspot finder. It has a small LCD panel that scrolls info on the network's name, encryption status, and broadcast channel, and then cycles to the next network in range. This is a great device both for finding hotspots on the road and for testing a home or office connection in areas saturated with Wi-Fi. Even though it's bulkier than the other two in this review, the HS10 is something we'd carry around with us every day—yeah, we're geeks.



The only hotspot it didn't find was Brisbane's own Razgulyay Club.

COMPANY: Canary Wireless

CONTACT: 888-898-0400 x152, www.canarywireless.com

PRICE: \$49.95

REQUIREMENTS: 802.11b or 802.11g

GOOD NEWS: Gives lots of info on findings.

BAD NEWS: Can't detect signal from some access points.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME

HAWKING TECHNOLOGIES WIFI LOCATOR The WiFi Locator looks like a cell phone—you might accidentally pick it up and talk into it if your real phone rings. If Wi-Fi searching were an illegal activity, the Locator would be great for distant discreet detection, but being the legit device it is, the flip-phone exterior seems just a little goofy. The WiFi Locator has the longest range in this trio (Hawking boasts a 1,000-foot range), though we're not sure that the signal it found at long distances was actually our signal. Still, the awesome range makes the Locator a good buy.



Step one to making a better Wi-Fi detector: the ability to set it to Stun.

COMPANY: Hawking Technologies

CONTACT: 949-790-0800, www.hawkingtech.com

PRICE: \$36.99

REQUIREMENTS: 802.11b or 802.11g

GOOD NEWS: Long range.

BAD NEWS: Not sure test signal was ours. Looks like a cell phone.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

KENSINGTON WIFI FINDER PLUS We were stoked to find that the WiFi Finder Plus is now one of the formidable detectors on the market. It's also the only one that detects Bluetooth signals as well as Wi-Fi. It even sports a nifty flashlight. As reasonably priced as it is convenient, the WiFi Finder Plus fits nicely on a belt loop or a standard key ring. Our main qualms with the Finder Plus are that it can't find both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth at the same time, and you can't set it to find only Wi-Fi or only Bluetooth. We also found that Wi-Fi detection takes priority over Bluetooth.

Finds Wi-Fi, finds Bluetooth, and can help find your way.

COMPANY: Kensington

CONTACT: 650-572-2700, www.kensington.com

PRICE: \$29.99

REQUIREMENTS: 802.11b or 802.11g, Bluetooth

GOOD NEWS: Key ring. Mini flashlight!

BAD NEWS: Doesn't always find Bluetooth when Wi-Fi is present.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID



Long range? Check. Short battery life? Check.

Bluetooth Mini Mouse

HIGH-RESOLUTION NOVELTY MOUSE

Logitech's Bluetooth Mini Mouse has a lot to offer: 800-dpi tracking for precision control (handy for you gamers), a wide range (Logitech claims 66 feet; we didn't get such distance, but we did get a good 20 to 30 feet with furniture in the way), and a tiny design. The Mini Mouse's size, however, may be the deciding factor for you—it's either *waaay* too small for your big mitts, or you're fine with it.

On a full charge, the Mini Mouse lasted a mere three days before it demanded we use a USB connection to recharge its two AAA NiMH batteries—but at least we could still use it while it was connected and charging. The short battery life may not be such a bad thing, considering the Mini Mouse's lack of girth may very well leave your hand sore and begging for a rest.

The bottom line. If you need a wide range (perhaps you're using a projector with your Mac for a presentation, or maybe you're extremely presbyopic), the Mini Mouse has you covered. Big-handed folks won't feel comfortable using the Mini Mouse every day, but the petite-pawed might. And if packing space is at a premium, the Mini Mouse could make a good traveling companion for your Bluetooth-equipped iBook.

—Noah Tsutsui

COMPANY: Logitech

CONTACT: 866-946-4327, www.logitech.com

866-946-4327, www.logitech.com

PRICE: \$45 (street)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, Bluetooth adapter

Mac OS 10.2 or later, Bluetooth adapter

GOOD NEWS: High resolution. Ultra portable.

BAD NEWS: Short battery life. Too small to be comfortable.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

SlimDVDup

HANDY CD AND DVD DUPLICATOR

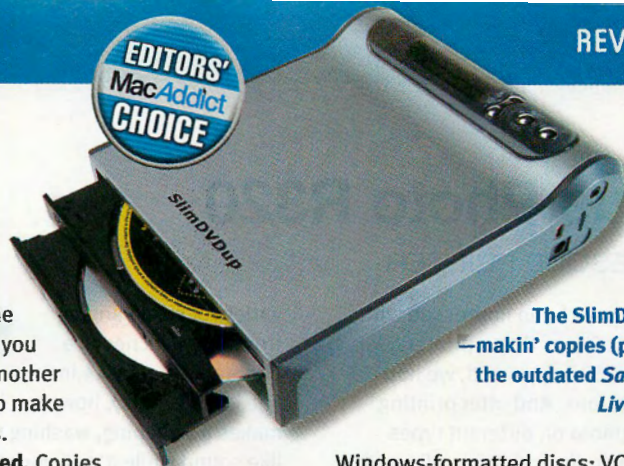
ILY's SlimDVDup stand-alone disc duplicator is a great way to offload a time- and CPU-intensive task—CD and DVD duplication—from your Mac. The drive has a USB port so you can connect it to your Mac as an external drive, and a headphone jack for listening to music CDs. You can also use it to duplicate discs without attaching it to your Mac at all.

The SlimDVDup walks you through the almost effortless duplication procedure via the unit's LCD. The SlimDVDup has two drives: a DVD-ROM and a dual-format DVD burner. After you insert the master disc in the DVD-ROM and a blank disc in the burner, SlimDVDup asks you for a recording speed, and then it copies the disc. You can also copy individual tracks of a music CD instead of the whole

CD. When the job is done, you can insert another blank disc to make more copies.

Good speed. Copies are quick; a 628MB data CD took 7 minutes, 29 seconds (16x speed), while a 3.56GB DVD took 17 minutes, 24 seconds (8x). The same CD and DVD copied on our dual 2GHz Power Mac G5 with Toast 6 Titanium (\$99.95, www.roxio.com) took 7 minutes, 8 seconds, and 21 minutes, 8 seconds, respectively—and that doesn't count swapping discs in our single drive.

The SlimDVDup handled every disc we used, including commercial music CDs; commercial but unprotected DVDs; TDK, Memorex, 3M, and Verbatim media;



The SlimDVDup-inator
—makin' copies (pardon us for
the outdated *Saturday Night
Live* reference).

Windows-formatted discs; VCDs; and DVDs created in iMovie. All of the copies worked perfectly. As expected, you can't duplicate copyright-protected discs such as commercial DVDs. Three other caveats: The SlimDVDup doesn't offer support for dual- or double-layer burning, it doesn't tell you the media type of your master disc, and it's mighty pricey.

The bottom line. While the SlimDVDup has limited portability—it doesn't use batteries, so you have to plug it into a power source—it's a very handy gadget. We'll definitely put it to good use.

—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: ILY

CONTACT: 562-801-2888,

www.ily.com

PRICE: \$699

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped
Mac, Mac OS 10.1.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: No Mac required to duplicate a DVD or CD. Can be used as an external drive. Good speed. Easy to use.

BAD NEWS: Expensive. Bulky external power supply. Not battery operated. No indicator for master media type.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

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Stylus Photo R320

PICTURESQUE PRINTER

We've always been impressed with Epson's Stylus Photo printers, so when the R320 appeared, we had high expectations. And after printing photo after photo on different types of media—including printable CDs and DVDs—we were duly impressed.

The R320 uses six ink cartridges: cyan, light cyan, magenta, light magenta, yellow, and black. For printing sans Mac, the R320's memory-card slots accept CompactFlash, MultiMediaCard, xD-Picture Card, Memory Stick, SmartMedia, Secure Digital cards, and even more with optional adapters. A USB port connects to PictBridge-enabled cameras. An image preview appears on a color LCD; you can make image adjustments, but you can't preview your changes.

You can create borderless prints at a

variety of sizes ranging from 4 by 6 inches to a panoramic 8.5 by 44 inches. The R320 is noisy, however; it makes a sweeping, washing machine-like sound while it's at work, and the paper-handling mechanism gives out a hearty, "Cha-chunk, whirrrr!" Late-night term papers might have to wait, unless your roomie is awake, too.

Performance. The R320 is made for photos, and it shows. Colors are lively and accurate, skin tones look realistic, and detail is good. Photos print at a reasonable rate: 2 minutes and 47 seconds for a 4-by-6-inch borderless glossy print.

Don't buy the R320 for printing text, though. A 50-page text-only Word document took over 23 minutes to print



Brings the Fotomat to your desk.

(2.17 pages per minute) using Epson's Speed mode. In Quality mode, the same document took a full 78 minutes (0.63 ppm). Draft mode is quick—our Word file took 5 minutes and 30 seconds (9 ppm), but quality suffered. Text quality in Quality mode is quite nice for an inkjet printer—not as crisp as laser output, but clean.

The bottom line. The R320 isn't a speed demon, but it's a nice complement to your existing text printer, or a great camera companion.—*Roman Loyola*



COMPANY: Epson

CONTACT: 800-463-7766,

www.epson.com

PRICE: \$199.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped

Mac, Mac OS 8.6 or later, Mac OS 10.2.x

or later

GOOD NEWS: Convenient and easy to use. Prints directly to printable CDs and DVD. Great image quality.

BAD NEWS: Slow text-printing times. Noisy.

MacAddict RATED



Rock Guitar Method

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL CD

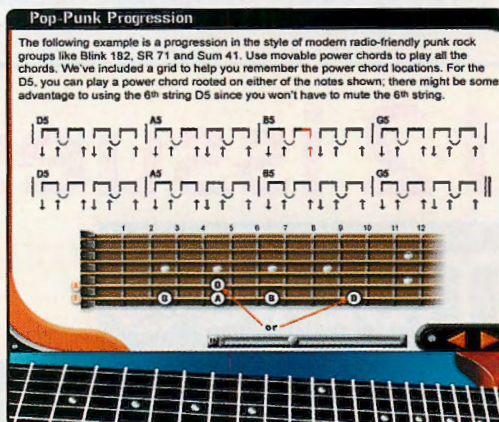
Would-be rock stars who can't quite thrash that spanking new axe (*axe* is slang for "electric guitar," for you easy-listening folks) can use Rock Guitar Method to learn the basics. However, an experienced guitarist won't find much use for this tutorial CD.

Rock Guitar Method has step-by-step sessions for eight tunes, including Black Sabbath's "Paranoid," and Blue Oyster Cult's "Don't Fear the Reaper" (cowbell not included). An animated fret board clearly shows where to place your fingers to play notes, making it easy to follow along. Musical notes on a staff highlight in orange in relation to what's shown on the animated fretboard, giving you instant feedback about the relationship between the guitar neck and written

notation—it's an excellent teaching technique.

Strum along. Novices will like the pacing of the lessons, which provide the instant gratification needed to inspire the desire to practice the riffs. There is also some useful subsidiary information on special effects, guitar pedals, amps, and other topics of interest to guitarists.

We generally dig RGM, but it does have its faults. Although distortion is a key part of the rock sound, the scratchy audio quality of the recorded guitar parts is distracting—if you pump RGM's audio through some decent speakers, your ears will tire sooner rather than later. RGM's 50 video



You may not appear on MTV right after using Rock Guitar Method, but you'll be on your way.

clips of guitarist Steve Rock of KISW (a Seattle radio station) don't add much educational value—we want more songs.

The bottom line. RGM is a worthy starting point for anyone hoping to be the next Slash or Hendrix.—*David Biedny*



COMPANY: eMedia Music

CONTACT: 206-329-5657,

www.emedia.org

PRICE: \$39

REQUIREMENTS: System 7.5.3

or later, Mac OS 8.x to 9.x or 10.1 or

later, 16MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Excellent animated guitar fretboard and musical notation. Decent content and pacing.

BAD NEWS: Low recorded guitar audio quality. Lessons exclusively geared toward novices.

MacAddict RATED

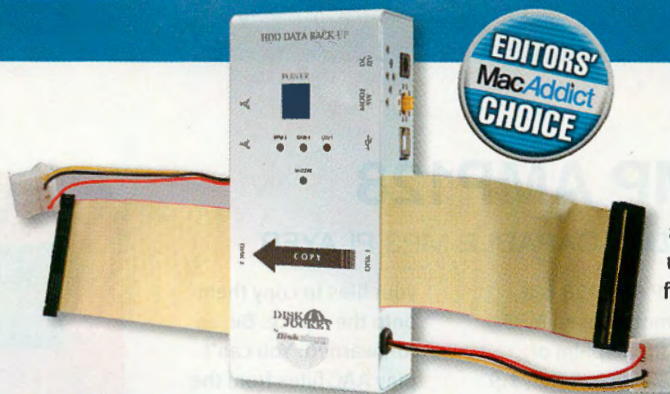


Disk Jockey

DISK GEEK'S FANTASY TOOL

As hardware geeks, we knew the Disk Jockey was for us as soon as we unfurled its twin (40-pin) IDE hard drive ribbon cables. Sporting a single USB 2.0 and dual FireWire 400 ports, the Disk Jockey can do anything with two hard drives, from copying or erasing data to mounting a hard drive or two (in a RAID array if you're ambitious) on your Mac.

Actually using the thing, however, requires a bit of patience. First off, the mode dial is an ambiguous little nub—we had to consult the manual to figure out if it was pointing at 1 (Mirror mode, for creating a real-time duplicate of one disk onto another) or 6, which erases the disk. Next, we attached two drives to the Jockey, plugged in the AC power, and



It ain't pretty, but truly useful tools rarely are.

connected to the Mac via FireWire. So far so good, but pressing the Disk Jockey's Power button did nothing—until we checked the manual again and learned we had to press Power twice. Silly us.

Making copies. Standalone drive-to-drive copying is one of the Jockey's main features: It's as easy as setting the mode dial to 3 (Copy), attaching two drives, and hitting the Power button. We duped a half-full 160GB SATA drive (an optional SATA-to-IDE adapter costs \$39.95) onto

a 300GB drive in just under 90 minutes—a full sector-level copy, mind you. A limitation in the Mac-disk mojo soured

the deal: Our Mac saw the 300GB drive as only 160GB, but Diskology includes SubRosaSoft's OS X-only partition-management utility, VolumeWorks (\$59.95, www.subrosasoft.com), which we used to reveal our drive's true 300GB identity.

The bottom line. Disk Jockey is better suited for an IT technician or a testing lab than it is for home use—so it's perfect for all of us whose homes have come to resemble testing labs.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

9

COMPANY: Diskology

CONTACT: 916-645-3196,
www.diskology.com

PRICE: \$329

REQUIREMENTS: FireWire- or USB

2.0-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.1 or 10.2 or later (OS X or later required for USB), IDE hard drives with 40-pin connectors

GOOD NEWS: Geekily cool and useful. Includes smart software.

BAD NEWS: Looks that only a geek could love. Unintuitive onboard controls.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

Mathematica 5.1

FAST MATH-ANALYSIS SOFTWARE

The folks at Wolfram Research have worked long and hard to make Mathematica a leader in the scientific-application realm; its vast tool kit performs symbolic or numerical mathematics, graphs the results, and organizes the results into notebooks. Version 5.1's new grab bag of features is certainly welcome—this upgrade is definitely worth a look for owners of version 5.0. And if you're using a version older than 5.0, you *must* get 5.1.

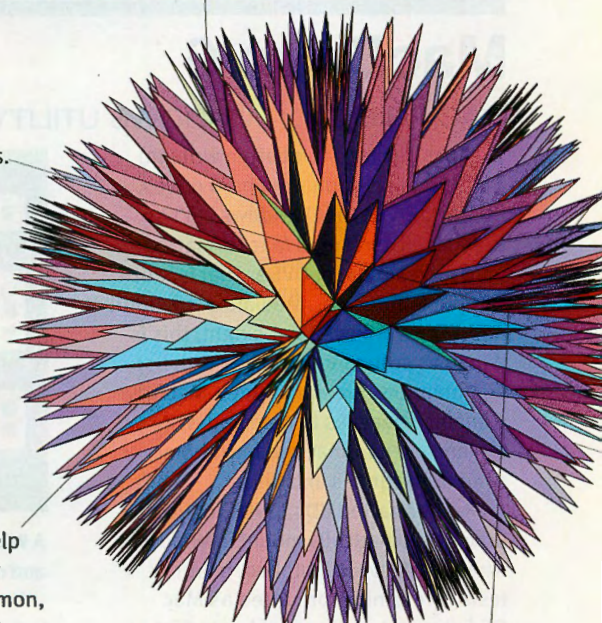
A new GUI toolkit allows you to create graphical user interfaces. These interfaces conform to the Mac UI guidelines, and use the expected Aqua widgets. Mathematica now formally supports piece-wise functions (you don't have to define them with nasty "if" constructions), although it won't compute indefinite integrals of them. Also, a new ArrayPlot graphing function makes it

easy to create density plots from arrays.

Fast math. There is also a host of numerical speed-ups, although Mathematica won't challenge MATLAB (\$1,900 for commercial version, www.mathworks.com) or IDL (\$3,000 for personal-use license, www.rsinc.com) for some time to come, now that both of those applications are available for Mac OS X.

On the downside, Mathematica retains a single irritating glitch from version 5.0: The scroll bars in the help browser frequently refuse to display properly as new columns appear. C'mon, guys—how hard could that be to fix?

The bottom line. Mathematica 5.1 continues to deserve its fine reputation in the symbolic-computation market on the Mac platform.—*Ian Sammis*



Artists sometimes use Mathematica to create stunning geometrical images. The best we could do was a Koosh ball.

9

COMPANY: Wolfram Research

CONTACT: 800-965-3726 or 217-398-0700,
www.wolfram.com

PRICE: \$1,880 (commercial), \$1,580

(government), \$895 (academic), \$139.95 (student)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, 128MB RAM, 400MB to 500MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Clean design. More features than a Swiss Army Knife.

BAD NEWS: Still has scroll-bar bug from version 5.0.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

Rave-MP AMP128

COMPACT RADIO-CAPABLE MP3 PLAYER

GoVideo's Rave-MP AMP128 is a sporty flash-memory-based MP3 player that easily fits in the palm of your hand. It's only 2.76 inches tall, 1.9 inches wide, and 0.87 inches thick—it's not as small as MPIO's FL300 (Feb/05, p44), however.

The AMP128 has faux-clickwheel navigation controls on the front of its plastic body—no spin-to-scroll action, just up/down and right/left clicking. Along the player's right side are volume, menu, button-lock, and power buttons. A bright monochrome LCD with good contrast displays acceptably intuitive on-screen controls.

You load tracks by connecting the player to your Mac's USB port, waiting for it to mount, then dragging and dropping

your files to copy them onto the device. Be forewarned: You can't play AAC files from the iTunes Music Store, just MP3 and WMA files.

Audio adjustment.

The AMP128 includes an equalizer to enhance your tunes. Genre-based presets are available, but you can also make manual adjustments. The equalizer can't save you from the included earbuds, however—they provide tinny, flat sound that lacks punch.

Other features include a built-in FM tuner with decent reception, a voice recorder that produces faint and muffled



Look! It's got a lil' clickwheel! Sorta.

recordings, and an expansion slot for MMC and SD memory cards.

We were a bit skeptical about the AMP128's battery life rating: 16 to 18 hours on a single AAA alkaline battery. But that seemingly optimistic rating proved to be realistic—we averaged 16 hours, 51 minutes per battery.

The bottom line.

For such a small player, you get a lot: MP3 playback, an FM tuner, voice recording, memory expansion, and long battery life. The Rave-MP AMP128 is a nice alternative when the iPod is more than you need.—Gil Loyola



COMPANY: GoVideo

CONTACT: 877-772-8367,

www.govideo.com

PRICE: \$99.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped

Mac, Mac OS 10.1 or later

GOOD NEWS: FM tuner. Memory expansion slot.

Long battery life.

BAD NEWS: Poor earphones. Weak voice recording. No AAC support.

MacAddict RATED



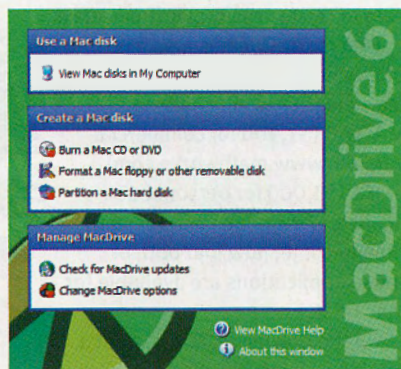
SOLID

MacDrive 6

MAC-FRIENDLY WINDOWS UTILITY

Macs can read (and often write to) Windows-formatted hard drives, CDs, and DVDs, but Windows isn't so friendly—it can't read Mac-formatted hard drives, CDs, or DVDs. That is, not without MacDrive 6, Mediafour's helpful utility for Windows (that's right, this is Windows software—but bear with us; our intentions are honorable). MacDrive 6 enables peeces to read and write to—and even format and burn—Mac-compatible drives and discs.

Mac-formatted CDs, DVDs, or hard drives automatically mount in Windows when MacDrive is installed. In our tests, everything formatted as Mac OS Extended or Standard loaded into Windows flawlessly—data CDs and DVDs, a FireWire portable hard drive with multiple Mac partitions, Zip disks, and even floppy disks (an ancient



A Windows app that recognizes Mac drives and media? What is the world coming to?

technology that encased flexible magnetic disks in colorful plastic cases). MacDrive 6 can't let a PC access a UFS-formatted (Unix File System) hard drive, nor can it recognize a partitioned drive

with a non-Mac-formatted partition. We also couldn't read 400KB and 800KB floppies—they're not supported by PC floppy drives.

Mac format. Launch the MacDrive utility and you can create Mac-compatible disks. You can burn a CD or DVD with data, or you can format a floppy. Woo-hoo! An easy-to-use partition tool lets you divvy-up your Mac-formatted hard drive.

All of the drives formatted via MacDrive were recognized by our Mac running Mac OS 10.3.7—and we couldn't tell the difference between these drives and drives formatted by a Mac.

The bottom line. MacDrive is helpful for IT departments, as well as folks at home with both Macs and PCs—and it warms our hearts that our PCs and Macs can get along.—Roman Loyola

COMPANY: Mediafour

CONTACT: 515-225-7409,

www.mediafour.com

PRICE: \$49.95, \$19.95 (upgrade)

REQUIREMENTS: Windows

98SE (with IE 6 or later), ME, 2000,

2003 Server, or XP; 10MB disk

space

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Instant Mac-drive access in Windows.

BAD NEWS: PCs don't support 400KB and 800KB Mac-formatted floppy disks.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

the HotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

SHOPPING?
HERE'S WHAT WE
RECOMMEND

NEW THIS MONTH



Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0

According to imaging guru Michael Shapiro, "Not only is Elements a great tool for most users, it's one you won't soon outgrow."



Canon PowerShot A85

Gadget geek Gil Loyola calls the PowerShot A85 "a complete entry-level package that we highly recommend."

SOFTWARE

AUDIO

Ableton Live 4	\$499.00	Jan/05, p43	This top real-time sequencer now has improved MIDI powers.
Bias SoundSoap Pro	\$599.00	Jan/05, p42	Got noise in your video? Here's the app to clean it up.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	\$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.

GAMES

Aspyr Call of Duty	\$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Feral Interactive XIII	\$55.00	Oct/04, p52	This mission-based shooter has an old-style comic book feel.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	\$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	\$39.99	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.

GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS	\$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.
Adobe Photoshop CS	\$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0	\$89.99	Mar/05, p36	Adobe's affordable image editor gets a significant upgrade.
Corel Painter IX	\$429.00	Feb/05, p38	This natural-media champ is now faster and more capable.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	\$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Macromedia Flash MX 2004 Professional	\$699.00	Jan/04, p48	Don't know how to write code? Flash MX will do it for you.
Nik Multimedia Color Efex Pro 2.0	\$299.95	Jan/05, p41	You'll be amazed by this plug-in's filters and darkroom effects.
Strata 3D CX	\$695.00	Dec/04, p43	Whether you're a 3D newbie or expert, this app's for you.

PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 8.0	\$179.00	Jan/05, p36	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
FileMaker Pro 7	\$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	\$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.

VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 6.5	\$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Apple Final Cut Express 2.0.2	\$299.00	May/04, p48	Unless you need to go Pro, Express will save you \$700.
Discreet Combustion 3	\$995.00	Sep/04, p47	If you're serious about video compositing, get this software.
Vidvox Grid2	\$75.00	Feb/05, p39	Join the VJ ranks with this MIDI-capable video-mixing software.

HARDWARE

ACCESSORIES

Apple AirPort Express	\$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
RadTech BT-500 Mobile Mouse	\$54.95	Aug/04, p58	Here's the perfect mouse for Bluetooth-equipped travelers.

AUDIO & VIDEO

Canon Optura Xi	\$999.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
MCE Technologies QuickStreamDV	\$729.00	Aug/04, p57	This rugged DV-encoding drive includes a hot-shoe mount.
Native Instruments Guitar Rig	\$499.00	Nov/04, p40	Killer software plus a sturdy stomp box will wow any guitarist.
Sony DCR-HC20	\$499.99	Aug/04, p36	This compact, inexpensive camcorder has great image quality.
Tivoli Audio iPal	\$129.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon PowerShot A85	\$299.99	Mar/05, p40	This 4-megapixel point-and-shoot beauty takes great pictures.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	\$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.

PRINTERS

Canon i560	\$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	\$119.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	\$199.99	Sep/04, p31	Gorgeous prints, CD printing, color-LCD editing—all good stuff.

SCANNERS

Epson Perfection 2580	\$149.00	Oct/04, p37	This flatbed handles both reflective and film scans with ease.
Epson Perfection 4180	\$199.00	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	\$129.00	Oct/04, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.

STORAGE

LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	\$429.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
LaCie d2 DVD±RW Double Layer	\$189.00	Feb/05, p48	Cram 8.5GB of data onto DVDs with this speedy burner.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/+RW	\$129.99	Aug/04, p60	This speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
WiebeTech G5Jam 1TB	\$1,299.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal 4-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.

ask us

HOTSPOT HOEDOWN

I travel a lot and use 802.11 (Wi-Fi) hotspots when in airports and hotels. Is there a service that allows me to use all the different carriers without having to manage multiple accounts?

The 802.11 protocol may be standardized, but the authentication methods that hot-spot providers use definitely aren't. To the rescue comes Boingo (www.boingo.com), a nationwide service for providing access to numerous hot spot providers. With access to over 12,000 hot spots all around the world, Boingo allows you to sign up and pay a monthly fee (\$21.95) for unlimited hot spot access. And



best of all, a Mac OS X version of Boingo's software is finally available!

PRINT FROM THE BAR

I heard that it was possible to add a print button to the Safari Bookmarks Bar. Do you know how?

Why, yes we do—and you do it all with a JavaScript link. In the URL field

at the top of the Safari window, type `javascript:window.print()`. Don't press Return, but instead click and drag the little blue globe, located to the left of what you just typed, from the URL field into the Bookmarks bar. A dialog will appear that asks you to type a name for the bookmark—you could type anything here, but Print is a logical choice. Now, when you want to print a Web page, just click your new Print bookmark.

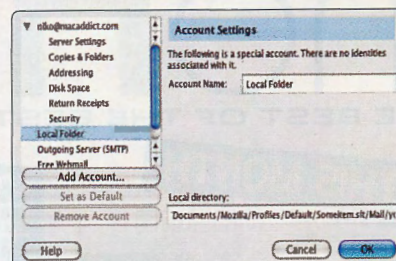


We named our print bookmark Print. Creative, eh?

MAIL MIGRATION

I am a Mac OS 9 user who uses Netscape Mail (version 7) in the Netscape browser. I want to move to OS X, but how can I transfer all my email messages?

Netscape X 7.2 is the current version of Netscape for Mac OS X, and it contains an email client, just as the version 7 for Mac OS 9 did. For some reason, when you go from one version to the other, the process doesn't import your email messages—but here's a workaround. Launch the Mac OS X version of Netscape and select Window > Mail & Newsgroups; when this drops you into Netscape's email client, select Edit > Mail & Newsgroups Account Settings. Opening this item

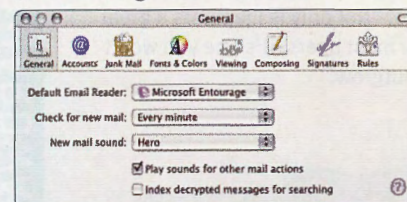


Getting your email from Netscape 7 for Mac OS 9 to the Mac OS X version is harder than it should be.

will let you point Netscape to the email messages you saved in OS 9. Select Local Folders in the mailbox list; in the field labeled Local Directory, type `/Documents/Mozilla/Profiles/Default/Someitem.slt/Mail/your mail server name`. Click OK in the Account Settings dialog box, then quit and relaunch Netscape. Your old messages will now appear in the Local Folders directory in Netscape mail. This method will also work should you choose to use the free, open-source Thunderbird email client (www.mozilla.org/products/thunderbird) instead of Netscape.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

How can I set my default email program to something other than Mail?



Set your email program in Mail.

quick answers

CLOCK TALK

Can I have my Mac tell me the time out loud? Yes, you can, if you're running Mac OS 10.3—and it'll probably annoy the heck out of everyone else in your home or office. But if you must, simply open the Date & Time preference pane, click the Clock tab, select the Announce The Time

checkbox, and choose how often you want to hear the time (on the hour, half hour, or quarter hour).

SIDEBAR SHUFFLE

How can I change the order of items in a Finder window's Sidebar?

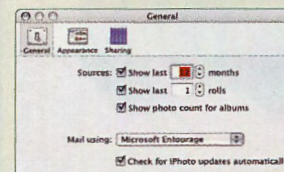
It's easier than you might think—simply drag the items into the order you want.

SEND DIFFERENT

How can I change the email program iPhoto uses to send photos?

If you're using iPhoto 2 or later, open iPhoto > Preferences and use the pop-up

menu (in the General section in recent versions) to change the Mail Using setting.



You don't have to settle for Mail.

FORWARD-DELETE

How do I execute a forward-delete on my iBook—that is, delete a character to the right of my cursor?

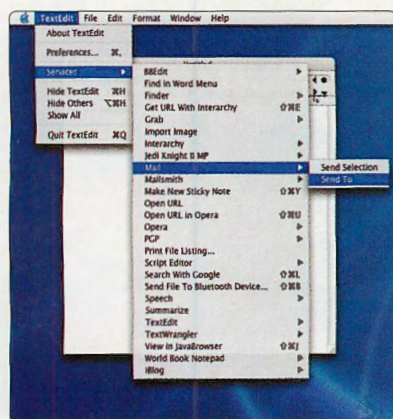
Hold down the fn (Function) key while

To set your Mac's default email program, you need to use Apple's OS 10.3's Mail application—yeah, that sounds whack, but it's true. Open Mail, then choose Mail > Preferences. In the General section, use the pop-up menu to set your Default Email Reader.

SERVICE ME

How can I access the grayed-out items in the Services menu that appears in every Mac OS X app?

You can't—at least not in all OS X apps. The Services menu's functions depend upon how the developer programmed that particular OS X app. There are two methods for creating Mac OS X apps: Carbon derives from the classic Mac OS; Cocoa has its roots in NeXTStep, the application development



TextEdit offers Services with a smile.

environment used by Steve Jobs's old company, NeXT Computer. The Services menu is active only in Cocoa apps.

The idea of the Services menu is a

pressing the Delete key to accomplish this feat—works on PowerBooks, too.

BYO DEFAULT

How can I change the default Page Setup paper size for printing?

In Mac OS 10.3, go to System Preferences and open the Print & Fax pane. Click the Printing tab and use the pull-down menu to set your default paper size.

ASK THE RIAA

How come I can't take songs off my iPod and put them on my friend's computer?

This is a result of Apple's effort to prevent

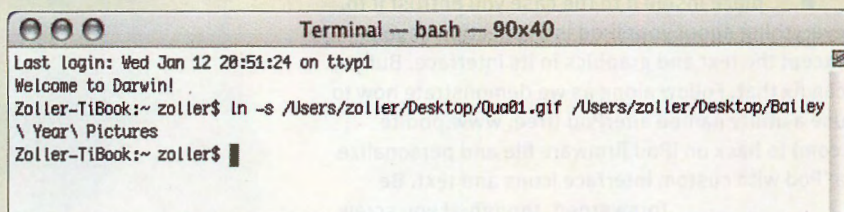
UNIX UNIVERSITY

LINK SYMBOLICALLY

Before Mac OS X, I used aliases all the time. In Mac OS X, sometimes aliases work and sometimes they don't. Wassup?

Creating an alias to a file or folder (selecting an item and pressing Command-L, or holding down Command-Option while dragging it) is an effective way to create a pointer to that file or folder. This is a wonderful organizational tool that exists as part of the Finder. Because of Mac OS X's Unix roots, however, some items refuse to function when you're pointing to an alias instead of the original item. For example, if you want to relocate your iPhoto Library or your GarageBand Instrument Library, simply creating a Finder alias doesn't

work because these apps don't see an alias as a valid file. There is a way around this limitation: Creating a symbolic link to the file using the command line in the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities/Terminal) can work at times when a Finder alias does not. To create the link, open the Terminal, type `ln -s`, drag the source file or folder into the Terminal window, and then drag the target folder into the window. Finally, press Return in the Terminal window—you've just created a symbolic link.




Symbolic links aren't quite as easy to set up as regular aliases, but they're way cooler.

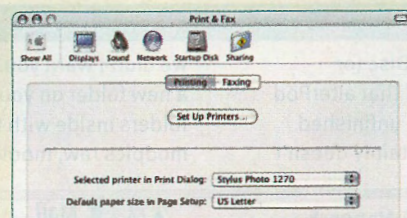
great one; it lets one app seamlessly send data to or use data from another app. To see firsthand a Cocoa program that has full Services support, launch TextEdit (/Applications/TextEdit) and type some text. Highlight the text and see what options are available under TextEdit > Services in the menu bar.

iCHAT PC

I use iSight and iChat to video-chat with my kids. We all have iBooks or PowerBooks. Is there a way to do the same with my financial planner, who's PC-bound?

iChat is an awesome way to keep in contact with people, and adding an iSight camera makes it even better. We Mac users aren't alone in this endeavor; we just have better tools. Your PC pals can get in on the action using free apps like AOL Instant Messenger (www.aol.com) or Yahoo Messenger (www.yahoo.com) to connect with iChat.

 Buz is a graphic designer living in Florida. He has been a devoted Mac user for over 10 years and has worked for both Apple and Power Computing.



You get to pick your default paper size.

the unauthorized transfer of copyrighted material—the songs. It's at best a deterrent, as numerous freeware utilities let you bypass this restriction. And no, we're not going to tell you what they are; as Steve says, "Don't steal music."

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Hack Your iPod's Interface

TRICKY

By Niko Coucouvanis

WHAT YOU NEED

Any iPod model (except the iPod shuffle)

alterPod (free with registration, www.podite.com)Lemke Software GraphicConverter (\$30, www.lemkesoft.de)

Your iPod is more than just an MP3 player—it's a symbol of your individuality and personal freedom. From the music you place inside it to the case you entrust it to, everything about your iPod is a reflection of you—except the text and graphics in its interface. But you can fix that. Follow along as we demonstrate how to use a utility named alterPod (free, www.podite.com) to hack an iPod firmware file and personalize a 'Pod with custom interface icons and text. Be

forewarned, though: If you screw up this hack, you can turn your iPod into a lump as useless as a helping of your mom's boiled cucuzza squash.



This is one of the skankiest hacks you can inflict on your iPod. Firmware hacking is partly science but mostly art—black voodoo art that can reduce people (and 'Pods) to incomprehensibly babbling shells of their former selves. Proceed at your (and your iPod's) own risk.

It's your iPod—and you can customize the screen graphics to prove it.

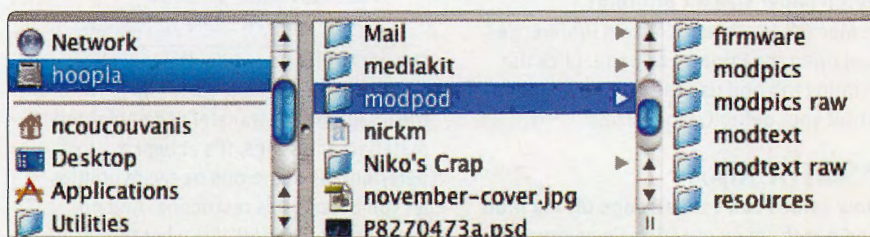


1 Lay Some Groundwork

First, install alterPod from this month's Disc (or download a copy)—and do keep in mind that alterPod is free *alphaware*, which means it's not even an unfinished beta yet. It's not for the faint of heart, and it certainly doesn't include tech support. However, community support is available via the Podite forums (www.podite.com), where free registration grants you access to unfettered discussion with other alterPod users, as well as the download area, which may offer a newer (and more finished) version of alterPod by the time you read this.

Wanna try anyway? OK—but don't say

we didn't warn you. Before you begin a-hackin', though, create a new folder on your Mac (we called ours modpod), and create folders inside with the following names: firmware, modpics, modpics raw, modtext, modtext raw, and resources.

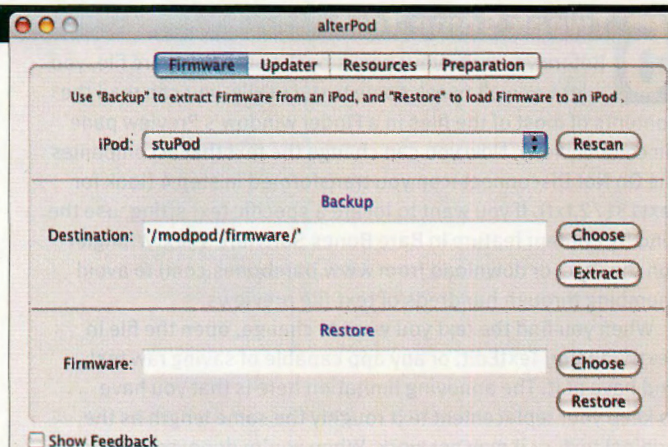


Once you create the necessary folders, you're ready to alter your iPod.

2 Yank the Firmware

You could simply grab an official iPod Software Updater from Apple (www.apple.com/ipod) and use its firmware file as the basis for this hack. But since we know that our iPod has the latest firmware installed, we'll show you how to use alterPod to fish the firmware right off a Mac-connected iPod. This way you'll learn how to extract an already-hacked firmware file from the iPod, so you can make subsequent tweaks to the iPod's interface without reverting to a pristine firmware file.

Launch alterPod and click the Firmware tab. If your connected iPod doesn't appear in the iPod pull-down menu, click the Rescan button. In the Backup section, click the Choose button. Navigate to the firmware folder from step 1 (`/modpod/firmware/`) and click OK. Now click alterPod's Extract button and wait; this firmware hackery can take up to a minute to finish. Although alterPod doesn't include progress bars—yet—the relevant button (Extract, in this case) stays lit until the process is complete. When it's done, a file called `ipod_firmware_backup` appears in your firmware folder. Smart

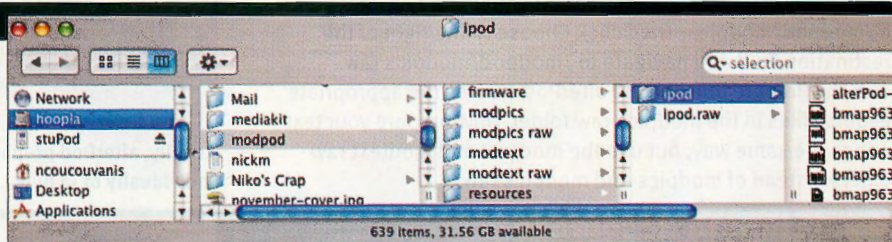


The iPod's firmware file is the Holy Grail of interface hacking. Click Extract to get it.

money backs everything up, so stash a duplicate somewhere on your Mac—right in the same firmware folder, if you like.

3 Rip the Resources

After extracting the iPod's firmware, you need to dig a little deeper and extract resources (namely graphics and text strings) from the firmware. Click alterPod's Resources tab and click the Choose button under Read Resources; navigate to the `/modpod/firmware` folder, select the `ipod_firmware_backup` file you saved there in step 2, and click Choose. If you're overambitious, curious, or international, check the box labeled All Language Resources to access the iPod's text strings in multiple languages. Finally, click the Read button, and alterPod creates two folders in your resources folder—one called `ipod`, full of images and small text



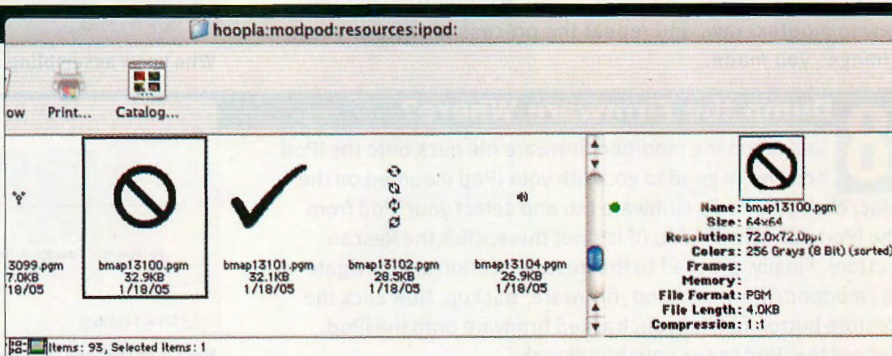
Once you read the resources out of the firmware file, they're yours for the hacking.

files, and another called `ipod.raw`, containing the corresponding resource files (with `.rsrc` extensions). A crucial file called `alterPod-prep.txt` is in the `ipod` folder; Option-drag this file to the `modpics` folder and then to the `modtext` folder to create copies in each folder.

4 Go for the Graphics

Before you start customizing, we have a bit of bad news for owners of the latest clickwheel iPods: As of this writing, it's essentially impossible to change the image (an Apple logo) that appears when you boot those models. A new version of alterPod might change that situation by the time you read this. In the meantime, let's change the Do Not Disconnect screen's international No symbol to something a little more menacing—how 'bout a skull and crossbones?

Launch Graphic Converter and select File > Browse Folder. Navigate to `/modpod/resources/ipod`, and click the Choose button. Scroll down to the No symbol (`bmap13100.pgm`) and double-click to open and edit it. Before you get too far into your Michelangelo act, keep these limitations in mind: You have to keep your replacement image the same size as the original, and unless you have an iPod photo with a color screen, alterPod will convert your handiwork into 2-bit grayscale—



Thankfully, Lemke Software's GraphicConverter has a file browser to guide you through the iPod's 90-plus icons.

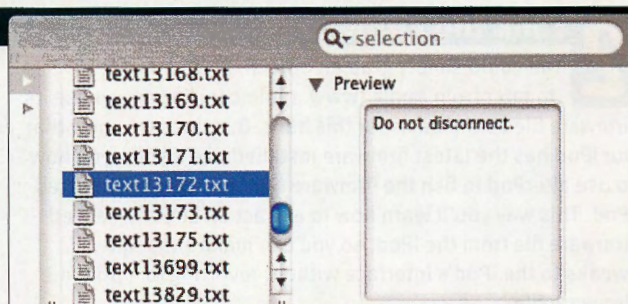
that's only four shades of gray. If you're lucky enough to have an iPod photo, save the graphics in PPM (portable pixel map) format, and alterPod will take it from there.

Once you modify the graphic to your liking, save it to the `/modpod/modpics` folder with its given name (`bmap13100.pgm`); if you're ambitious and confident, go ahead and tweak any of the graphics, following the same general rules.

5 Tweak Some Text

Before you write your hacks back to the firmware file, you might as well tweak some text. Luckily, you can read the contents of most of the files in a Finder window's Preview pane (in column view). Now you can change the text that accompanies the Do Not Disconnect icon you transformed in step 4 (look for text13172.txt). If you want to locate a specific text string, use the Find By Content feature in Bare Bones Software's TextWrangler (on the Disc, or download from www.barebones.com) to avoid thumbing through hundreds of text-file previews.

When you find the text you want to change, open the file in TextWrangler, TextEdit, or any app capable of saving raw text, and have at it. The annoying limitation here is that you have to keep your replacement text roughly the same length as the original text, or it may not work. When you're done, save your

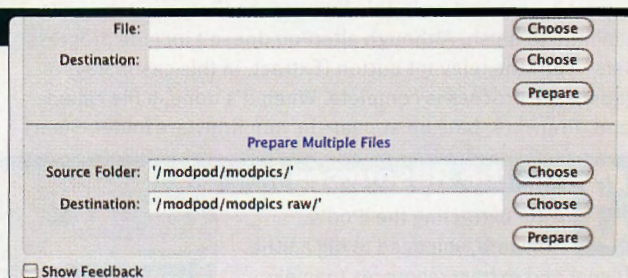


Most of the text strings are short enough to preview in a Finder window. How convenient!

work to the /modpod/modtext folder, retaining the file's original name (text13172.txt, in this case).

6 Station the Preparation

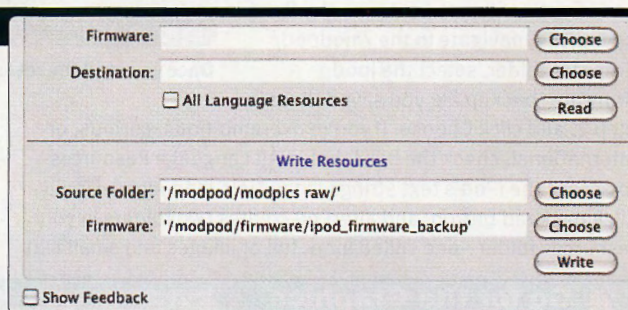
Now you'll transform your new graphics and text strings into a firmware-friendly resource format. Click alterPod's Preparation tab. In the Prepare Multiple Files section, click Choose to the right of the Source Folder field and navigate to /modpod/modpics. Then click Choose to the right of the Destination field and navigate to /modpod/modpics raw. Click the Prepare button, and alterPod creates the appropriate resource files in the modpics raw folder. Now prepare your text strings the same way, but use the modtext and modtext raw folders instead of modpics and modpics raw.



Luckily, alterPod prepares the necessary resource files for you—individually or in bulk.

7 Return to Resources

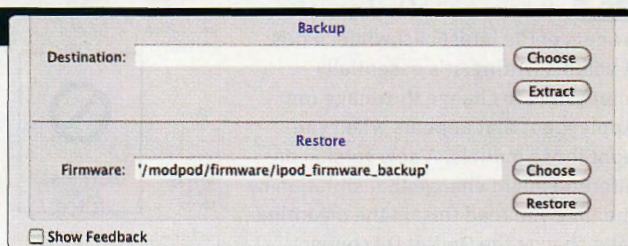
Getting the modified resources back into the firmware file is similarly easy. Click the Resources tab and proceed to the Write Resources section. Click the Source Folder field's Choose button and navigate to the /modpod/modpics raw folder, then click the Firmware field's Choose button and navigate to /modpod/firmware/ipod_firmware_backup. Click the Write button to infuse the firmware file with your new resources. Change the source folder from modpics raw to modtext raw, and repeat the process to write any text changes you made.



Who knew assembling a firmware file could be so easy?

8 Dump the Firmware Where?

Just dump the modified firmware file back onto the iPod and you're good to go. With your iPod mounted on the Mac, click alterPod's Firmware tab and select your iPod from the iPod pull-down menu (if it's not there, click the Rescan button). Finally, proceed to the Restore section and navigate to /modpod/firmware/ipod_firmware_backup. Now click the Restore button to load your hacked firmware onto the iPod. Reboot the iPod to see your handiwork.



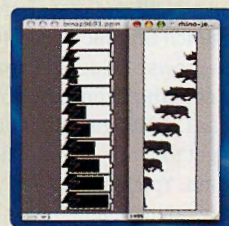
Now just replace the iPod's firmware with your hacked file.

Bonus: Charge like a Rhino

Except for the Apple-logo boot image, you can change pretty much any element of your iPod's interface—even the animated battery-charge icons (bmap9690.pgm and bmap9691.pgm). To turn that lame charging battery into a charging rhino, for example, simply replace the existing

animated charging batteries with rhinos arrayed as they'd appear in those soporific filmstrips you used to watch back in school.

**Charging batteries is so last year.
Cool kids today are charging rhinos!**



Control Your Mac from a Bluetooth Cell Phone

EASY

by Noah Tsutsui

WHAT YOU NEED

Bluetooth-enabled cell phone

Bluetooth-enabled Mac or Bluetooth dongle, such as the D-Link DBT-120 (\$45, www.dlink.com)

Salling Clicker (\$19.95, www.salling.com)

Apple's iApps and the whole digital lifestyle rap seem great—until you realize that you're still stuck at your Mac all day. Well, pick up your Bluetooth-enabled cell phone and break those chains! We show you how to unwire more of your digital life using the magic of Bluetooth wireless technology and a smart little app called Salling Clicker—install it from this month's Disc or download it from www.salling.com and get ready to become a control freak.



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA EMPEDOCLES

1 Pair and Pair Alike

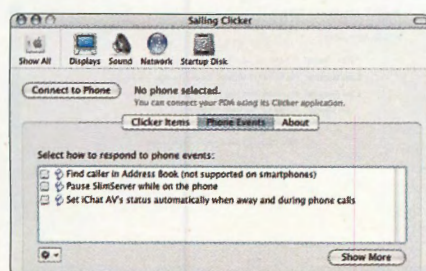
First, we need to *pair*, or “introduce,” the Bluetooth-enabled cell phone and the Mac. Pairing familiarizes the devices with each other so that your phone will connect to your Mac automatically—but no one else's phone will, which is probably a good thing. Once you plug the Bluetooth adapter into a USB port on your Mac, hub, or keyboard—or if your Mac already has internal Bluetooth—you'll see a Bluetooth icon appear on the upper-right side of your menu bar. Choose Set Up Bluetooth Device from the icon's drop-down menu and follow the prompts to set up your phone.



Mac, meet phone. Phone, meet Mac.

3 Exercise Control

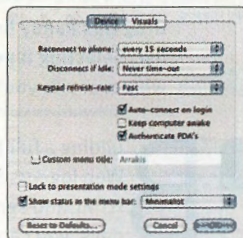
Now that you've got your Mac and phone connected, you can use Clicker's built-in ability to manage iTunes, DVD Player, and VideoLAN Client (free, www.videolan.org); control iPhoto, Keynote, and PowerPoint shows; and even execute a few system commands, such as moving your mouse or shutting down your Mac. The process for invoking these Clicker commands from your phone varies from one model to another, but it's generally simple; for example, we just choose Connect > Accessories from our Sony Ericsson T616's interface. To use the phone controller in full autopilot mode, click the Phone Events tab and you'll find a dozen prescribed Phone Events, including Auto Pause (for stopping iTunes, DVD Player, or VideoLAN Client) and an Event that shows Caller ID info on the screen when you receive an incoming call.



Clicker's Phone Events are checkbox easy, and the Show More button offers a ton more options.

2 Can You Hear Me Now?

Once paired, you still need to connect the Mac and the phone. Open System Preferences, select the Salling Clicker icon in the Other area, and click Connect To Phone—you can ignore the Select Phone button unless you have multiple phones paired to your Mac. Click the Settings button to fine-tune Clicker's settings; Show Status In The Menu Bar adds a handy status icon and shortcut menu to your menu bar. Set the disconnect and reconnect times to fit your work habits, keeping in mind that the connection taxes your phone's battery. Most phones indicate their status by displaying two opposing triangles when connected, or left- and right-angle brackets when the connection drops.

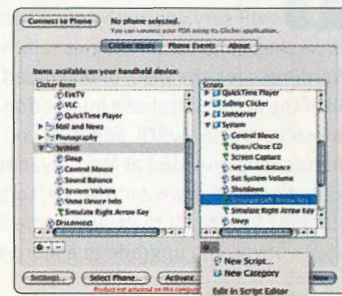


You can tweak Clicker to your heart's content in System Preferences > Salling Clicker > Settings.

4 Go Nuts

Once you get the hang of Clicker's built-in items, you'll no doubt want to control every app on your Mac remotely. Good news: Clicker runs on AppleScript, so it can control nearly every app on your Mac. To extend Clicker's vocabulary, drag scripts from the Scripts pane into the Clicker Items pane. If the provided scripts don't do it for you, there are more at the Salling Software Web site (www.salling.com)—just drag them from the Finder into the Items pane. If you're an accomplished AppleScript geek, you can edit Clicker scripts or write your own with the New Script and Edit options in the Actions menus in both the Items and Scripts panes.

Teach Clicker new tricks by dragging in items from the Scripts pane (right), or use the Action Menu to dig into the scripts.



Noah Tsutsui feels loved when he enters his bedroom and iTunes automatically resumes play.

Blog in Ten Minutes or Less

EASY

by Chris Barylick

Administration-interface menu

Your unpublished posts-in-progress

Insert compelling content here.

Pretty it up with basic markup tags.

Categories help organize your posts.

Request pingback (notification) when someone links to your blog.

Related links, blog style

Advanced editing adds more options.

Drag this handy link to your Bookmarks bar or Favorites list. Selecting it generates a cut-and-pastable link to whatever site you're viewing.

WHAT YOU NEED

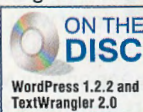
WordPress (free, <http://wordpress.org>)

Web host with MySQL and PHP services (\$19.95 per month, <http://smallbusiness.sbc.yahoo.com/webhosting>)

FTP software, such as Fetch (\$25, www.fetchsoftworks.com)

Building a full-featured blog—aka Web log—used to require extensive HTML and server knowledge. These days, you can find plenty of free, open-source blogging software on the Web that will allow you to easily add a blog section to your Web site and let your audience post their own two cents on your site—if your server provides the back-end database

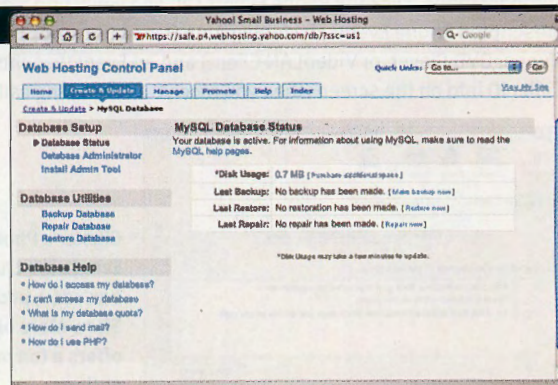
support. Since we've got more money than MySQL database smarts, we're basing this article on SBC Yahoo's Small Business Web Hosting Enhanced plan that includes pre-installed MySQL and PHP services. The MySQL setup specifics will vary with different Web hosts, but we've found that hosts offering such services usually provide easy-to-follow instructions, such as SBC Yahoo's Web-based configuration tools that walked us through the process.



1 Suss Your Server

Our SBC Yahoo Enhanced account provides the required MySQL and PHP services, with online configuration and management tools that make these alien technologies relatively easy to deal with—it helps that WordPress (on the Disc, or download free from <http://wordpress.org>) handles all of the actual database interaction and PHP coding for you. If your Web host doesn't provide MySQL and PHP, you can install them yourself with files and instructions provided at Marc Liyanage's excellent Mac OS X Packages page (donationware, www.entropy.ch/software/macosx) and refer to our previous blogging how-to ("Create and Serve Your Own High-End Blog," Nov/02, p62)—or you can upgrade to a more-expensive Web plan.

Our Enhanced Web plan handles the dirty work for us.



2 Build the Back-End

After we log in at <http://sbc.yahoo.com>, the Web Hosting Control Panel link takes us to SBC Yahoo's online tools; the Create & Update section contains the MySQL database control. Click the MySQL Database link, and if you haven't yet used your host's MySQL service, follow the onscreen prompts to create a MySQL user account (this account has nothing to do with your ISP login—WordPress uses the MySQL user account to do its database business). Write down the MySQL user name and password—you'll need them to configure WordPress.

Next up is creating a database for our blog; some hosts let you do this right through the Web control panel, but SBC Yahoo uses phpMyAdmin, a popular MySQL management tool, and even installs it for you—just click the Install Admin Tool link and follow the prompts. However your ISP handles MySQL, creating a database is always the first step, and as you can see in the screenshot (below), it's not complicated—we simply called ours *blog*. Note also in the screenshot that phpMyAdmin displays a status report, indicating that MySQL is running. If it's not running, your ISP's

tech support is there to help you—be polite and they might help you set up the MySQL database.

Congratulations!
You're a database administrator.

Welcome to phpMyAdmin 2.5.0

MySQL 3.23.49 running on coucouvanis.com

MySQL

Create new database [Documentation]

blog

Create

4 Kick It into Gear

Launch a Web browser and load www.yoursite.com/wordpress/wp-admin/install.php (omit or change /WordPress to match where you uploaded the WordPress files). Read the little welcome message—or don't—and click the Let's Go link. The script automatically sets up the database structure and links up WordPress's files to match. When it's done, the installer presents a page with the default username (admin) and a randomly generated password. Now click the Log In link and log in with that admin name and password. WordPress deposits you at the front door of your blog, showing a test post (Hello, World!) created during the installation. As the almighty admin user, you can edit or delete this post, or keep it around for posterity. Click the post's title to open the post on its own page, then click the Edit This link to load it into WordPress's post editor (note that the Delete This Post option is buried down

near the bottom of the post editor window).

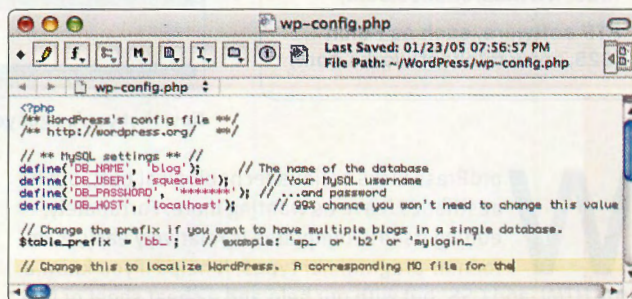
Like magic, or really smart technology, WordPress installs itself and greets you with a dummy post.



3 Prep WordPress

You only need to tweak one file to configure WordPress for your site. Find the `wp-config-sample.php` file inside the WordPress folder and open it in any text editor, such as TextWrangler (on the Disc, or download from www.barebones.com) or Apple's TextEdit (/Applications/TextEdit). Under MySQL Settings, define `DB_NAME`, `DB_USER`, and `DB_PASSWORD` to match the name of the database (*blog*), MySQL user name, and MySQL password we created in step 2. Select File > Save As and save the file as `wp-config.php` in the WordPress folder.

Now fire up Fetch (\$25, www.fetchsoftworks.com) or your FTP client of choice and deliver the WordPress files to your Web space. If you want www.yoursite.com to open directly to the blog, upload everything inside the WordPress folder—but not the folder itself—to the root level of your Web directory. If you want the blog stashed under www.yoursite.com/blogorama, simply rename the WordPress folder as *blogorama* and upload the folder with its files to your Web root.

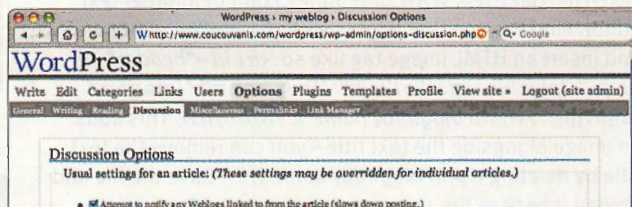


Don't look now—you're also a PHP hacker!

5 Let the Blogging Begin

Load www.yoursite.com/WordPress/wpadmin/ (change or omit /WordPress if you changed or omitted the WordPress folder) in a Web browser to access WordPress's admin pages. WordPress's default settings make a fine blog, but you'll probably want to add categories to organize your blog and maybe some contributing users to help write posts. These and other settings for every aspect of your blog's look and function are clearly laid out in the various sections of WordPress's admin pages.

Now spread the word far and wide that your blog is up and available for public consumption at www.yoursite.com/WordPress (as above, change or omit /WordPress if necessary). Click the Write tab, and blog on!



WordPress has loads of options, defaulting to a full-featured, comments-enabled blog.



Chris Barylick doesn't believe there's any reason to post about your boyfriend yet again today unless he's been abducted by space aliens.

Beautify Your Blog

TRICKY

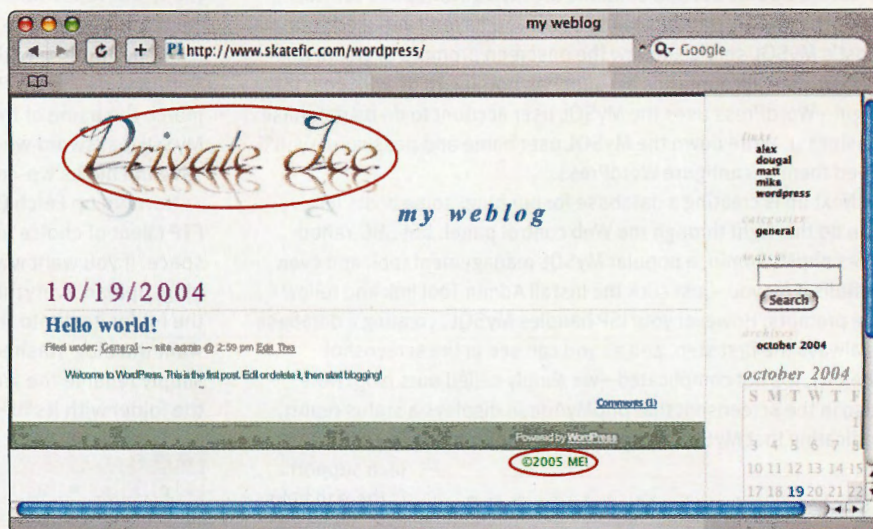
by Mary Tyler

WHAT YOU NEED

WordPress
(free, www.wordpress.org) or
similar PHP-based blog kit

TextWrangler
(free, www.barebones.com)

FTP software, such as Fetch
(\$25, www.fetchsoftworks.com)



Now that you've got your blog up and running, here's how to make it your own.

WordPress kicks serious technological butt, but its aesthetics leave us wanting more. Fortunately, editing its PHP templates is relatively easy, even for non-programmer types. It helps if you know a little HTML and CSS, but with our help and a cheat sheet or two, you can do it. Here's how to add a graphical logo to the top of

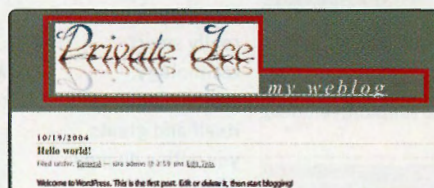
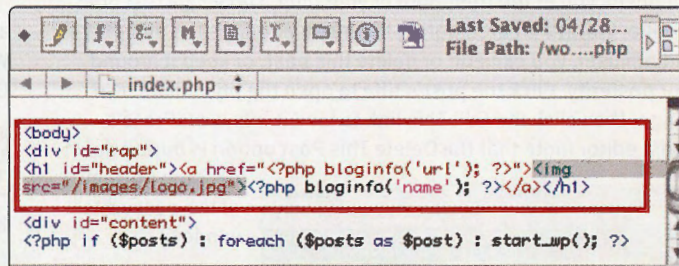
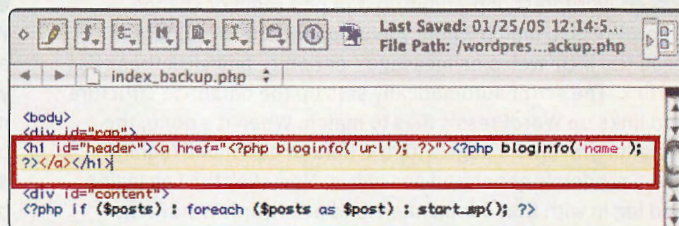
the page, jazz up the text and links throughout, and place your own copyright footer at the bottom of the page. With these techniques and some quality time spent at the right Web sites (see "Resources," p59), you can make WordPress your own. Happy hacking!

ON THE DISC
WordPress 1.2.2 and
TextWrangler 2.0

1 Leggo My Logo

WordPress makes it easy to change the default title text on your blog, but what if you want more fluff than formatted text can support? Easy—add a graphical logo. We'll leave the design to you; after you've created it, fire up Fetch (\$25, www.fetchsoftworks.com) or your FTP client of choice and connect to your Web server (if you don't know the specifics, your ISP can help you). Upload your logo-image file to your site's images directory or wherever you store your images.

Now we'll code it into the template. Download `index.php` (as always, save a backup copy) from the WordPress installation on your Web server and open the file in TextWrangler (free, www.barebones.com) or another text editor. Find the line that begins with `<h1 id="header">`, and insert an HTML image tag like so: `<h1 id="header"><?php bloginfo('name'); ?></h1>`. This adds an image alongside the text title—you can remove the text title by deleting `<?php bloginfo('name'); ?>`. Save the file and upload it back to the server, then open your blog page in Safari to preview your handiwork. Next we'll address that ugly green-gray background.

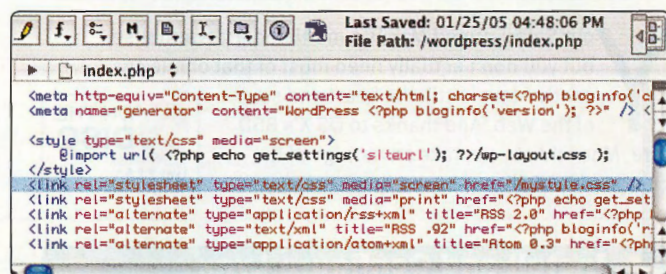
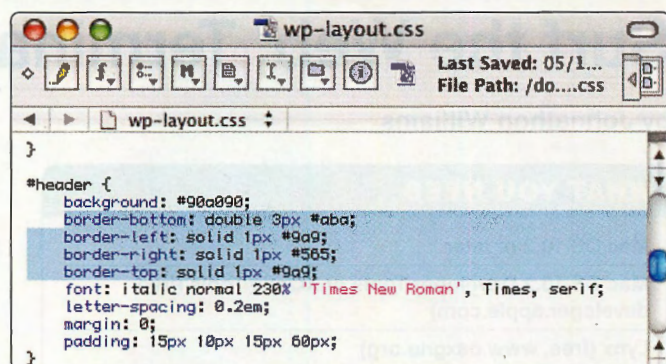


Adding a logo graphic is as easy as adding this little `` tag.

2 Show Me the Style

WordPress uses CSS (cascading style sheets) to control the text formatting—you can see the style-sheet links in the head section of `index.php`. Notice that WordPress uses the `@import` function for the main default style sheet (`wp-layout.css`), and below that, several alternate style sheets (for RSS feeds and printers) using the `<link>` tag to reference external style sheets. If you already have a style sheet for your Web site, you can simply link it in below the default style sheet to override conflicting definitions in WordPress's sheet. We added the following to reference `mystyle.css` from the root level of our Web server: `<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="screen" href="/mystyle.css" />`. Since `mystyle.css` only defines text and links (not layout), the WordPress layout remains, but we've hijacked the text formatting.

To lose the title bar's color, we'll dig into WordPress's default style sheet (where you can also change text formatting if you don't link to a pre-existing style sheet). Open `wp-layout.css` from your local WordPress folder or download it from your server. Save a copy for backup, then scroll down in the file until you find the `#header` attribute. The background and border attributes determine the header's color. Change the background and border values (we deleted the lines entirely for a clean white background), save the file, upload it to your server, and check the new layout in Safari.



WordPress imports external style sheets, which you edit directly (top) or override with your own (bottom).

3 Finally, Add a Footer

One of PHP's niftier tricks is building pages by including bits and pieces from disparate other files. For example, someday you'll need to update your copyright notice to "Copyright 2006, by ME!" If your copyright notice is actually a little HTML file that merges into any page with the proper PHP-include call, you change it once for the site, not on every page it appears on in the site. First create a file called `footer.html`; it can be as simple as:

```

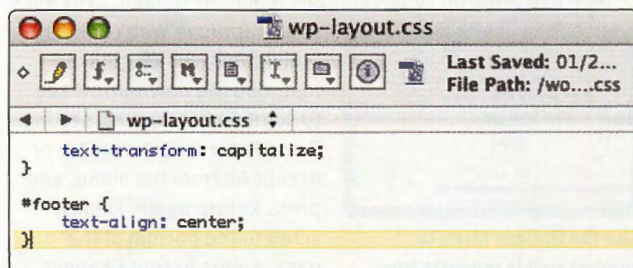
<html>
<body>
  Copyright 2006, by ME!
</body>
</html>
  
```

To place the footer at the bottom of the page, you have to add an id attribute to the CSS file `wp-layout.css`. Scroll to the bottom of the file and press Return, type `#footer {`, and press Return again. Now type `text-align: center;`, press Return again, and type `}` as in the screenshot above and to the right. This creates a simple style definition to center our footer on the page—and we can jazz it up more by pinching any font stylings, background colors, or what have you from the other styles on the page. Save `wp-layout.css` and upload it to the Web server. Now open `index.php` in TextWrangler, and at the bottom, right before the `</body>` tag, add the following:

```

<div id="footer">
  <?php include("footer.html"); ?>
</div>
  
```

That's HTML-speak for "add a block with the footer attributes we set in `wp-layout.css` and use the contents of `footer.html`." Simple, eh?



The `#footer` attribute defines the style of our site's footer.

Resources

Here are three of the countless Web sites that can help with your CSS and PHP hackery.

1. www.hostm.com/css
Grab a copy of Simple CSS, a free, graphical CSS authoring tool.
2. <http://us2.php.net/manual/en/function.include.php>
Read the official PHP-Include documentation.
3. www.w3schools.com
Find oodles of tutorials on CSS, HTML and PHP.

Mary Tyler can build a full-featured blog out of Kleenex, duct tape, Kool-Aid, three emu feathers, and a text editor.

Surf the Web, Terminal Style

EASY

by Johnathon Williams

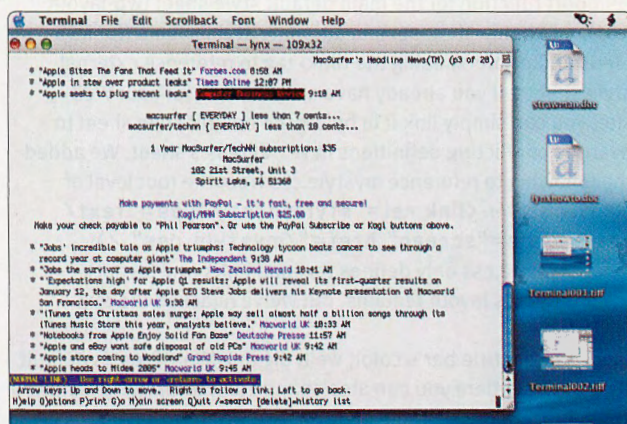
WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.2 or later

Mac OS 10.2 Developer Tools or XCode Tools (free, developer.apple.com)

Lynx (free, www.osxgnu.org)

Your Safari-armed Mac is a multimedia powerhouse, but you don't actually need most of that online eye candy—text is still the heart and soul of the Web. And thanks to OS X's BSD core, Mac addicts can take advantage of the granddaddy of all text-based browsers—Lynx.

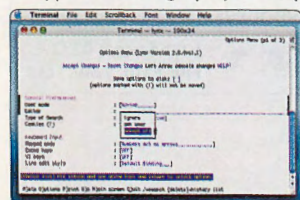


Nothing says "Web warrior" like a text browser. Here's how to browse with Lynx, the leanest and meanest of them all.

1 Install and Configure Lynx

Download Lynx from www.osxgnu.org or grab it off this month's Disc. To start the browser, launch OS 10.3's Terminal (/Applications/Utilities/Terminal), type `/usr/local/bin/lynx` at the prompt, and press Return (OS 10.2 users can simply type `lynx` and press Return).

Type `a` to bring up Lynx's Options Menu. By default, Lynx asks you to approve Web cookies individually, which gets old fast. Use the down-arrow key to scroll to the Cookies setting. Press Return, select Ignore or Accept All from the menu, and press Return again. Finally, scroll to the bottom of the page, select Accept Changes, and press Return to save.

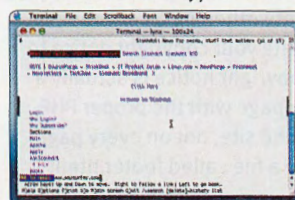


Use the Options Menu to prevent cookie requests from interrupting your page crawling.

2 'Round, 'Round, Get Around

Lynx ignores the Mac's mouse, so navigation is all about your keyboard. Web pages work just like the Options Menu in step 1: The down arrow scrolls down and highlights links, and pressing Return activates the link.

To enter a Web address, type `g`. An input field appears near the bottom of screen. Type a Web site's URL—for example, www.macaddict.com (or simply macaddict)—and press Enter.

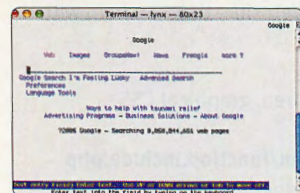


Enter URLs as you would with any browser; you can even skip all that `http://www` stuff.

In place of images, Lynx displays image file names or descriptions. Since Lynx displays image links in the same blue color as text links, they're easy to recognize—even if you don't know exactly where they'll send you.

3 You Can Have It All

Saving a bookmark in Lynx is a three-step process. Typing `a` summons a bookmark field near the bottom of the screen. Here you choose between saving the currently highlighted link (type `l`—that's a lower-case L) or the currently loaded document (type `d`). Finally, you must give your bookmark a title, and then press Return to save it. Once you've saved the bookmark, you can view a list of your bookmarks by typing `v`.



Lynx represents text-entry fields with underscores instead of boxes.

Forms are less complicated. The down arrow selects form elements just as it selects links. A row of underscores represents text fields. To enter text, simply scroll down to the appropriate field and type away. Toggle buttons by pressing Return.

Lynx Cheat Sheet

Keystroke Command	What It Does
<code>h</code>	Displays help
<code>o</code>	Displays Options Menu
<code>g</code>	Goes to a URL
Return or right arrow	Follows selected link
down arrow	Scrolls down
left arrow	Goes back a page
<code>/</code>	Searches within current page
<code>n</code>	Finds next occurrence of search term
spacebar	Moves one page down
<code>a</code>	Summons bookmark field
<code>d</code>	Downloads the page you're viewing
Backspace	Views history
<code>v</code>	Views bookmarks
<code>z</code>	Cancels transfer
<code>q</code>	Quits

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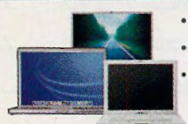
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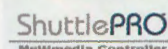
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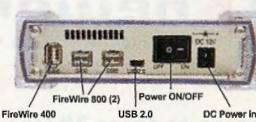
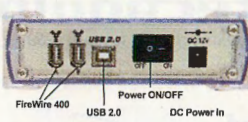
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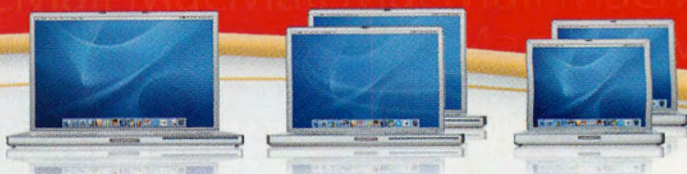
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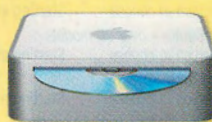
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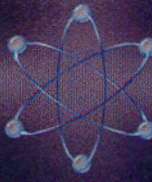
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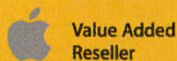


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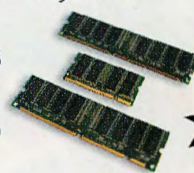
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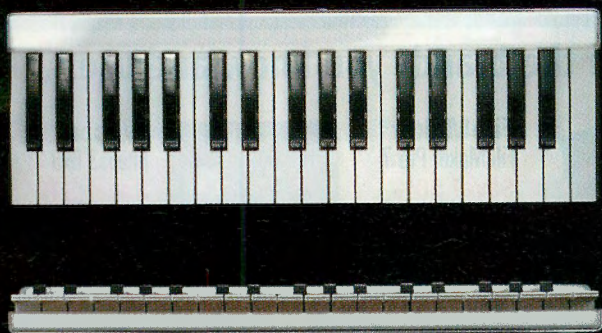
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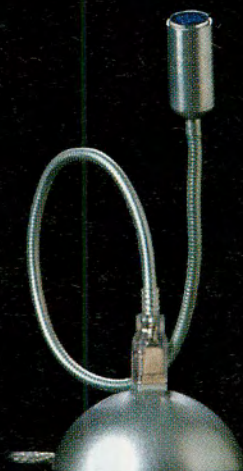
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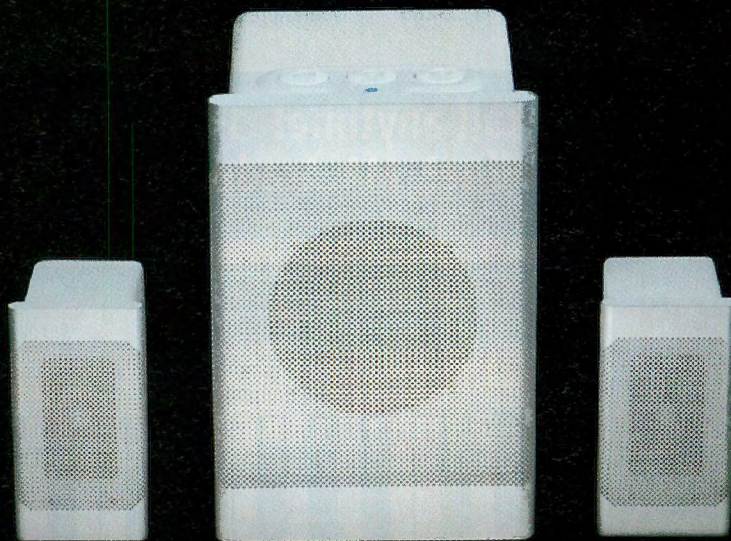
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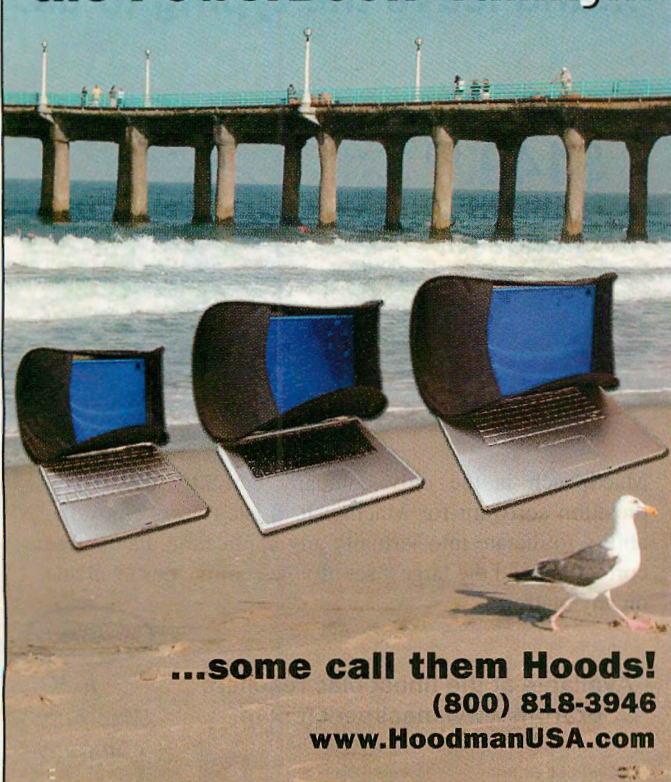
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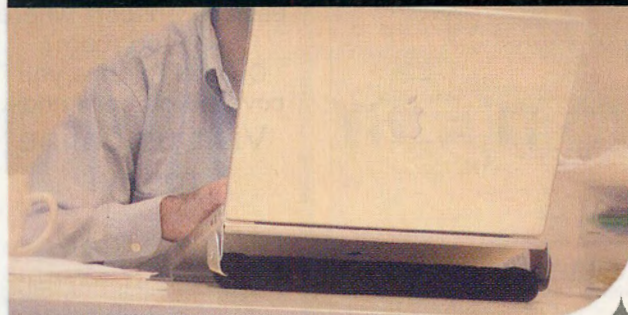
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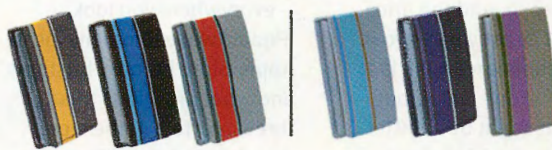
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LETTERS

BEEP CREEP

In "Total Troubleshooting" (Jan/05, p16), you state that if you hear four beeps or a breaking-glass sound at startup, you probably have bad RAM—but that's only true if you have a Mac that was made in the last century! Nowadays, it's three beeps for bad RAM, and four for no good images in the boot ROM. See: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=58442> for info on all the beeps.—*jt*

SMART COOKIE

Niko Coucouvanis's review of laptop stands (Dec/04, p46) fails to mention my favorite solution: the humble cookie sheet, inverted. A cookie sheet is light (around 12 oz.), takes up essentially no space in a briefcase, and the price is right—I already had two in my own cupboard! Mine is made of ferrous metal, but aluminum might be a better heat sink—and it's lighter, as well.—*Trish Benedict*



Yankee ingenuity lives!

AM I BLUE?

Given your California address (*left coast*, indeed), I suppose it should not surprise me to see you devote your most recent editorial to the so-called "digital apartheid" ("Digitally Divided," Feb/05, p8). You trot out the liberal mantras such as "the fortunate few versus the down-and-out," then proceed to the usual liberal conclusion that the government needs to step in and remedy the situation. That obviously worked really well in the former Soviet Union, eh?!—*Bill Sphar*

My passion runs to Macs, not politics—but "Hell with you, Jack, I got mine!" is not my idea of enlightened public policy.—*Max*

ATTACK OF THE 'POD PEOPLE

iPods, iPods, iPods, iPods—everywhere you look, iPods! I walked into my local Apple Store before Christmas and what did I find? Nearly three quarters of the store was devoted to selling iPods and iPod accessories! Coming soon to your local Apple Store: Plasma TVs with built in iPod docks! Toasters with iPod docks! Microwaves that have iPods! Whoo-hoo! What? You want to buy a computer? Sorry, we don't sell those anymore.—*David M. Harszslak*



IMELDA WHALEN?

Man! I want those iPod mini Chuck Taylor shoes (Feb/05, p80)—where can I get them?—*Tom Whalen*

Ah, the magic of Photoshop. As Willy Wonka sang, "There is no / Life I know / To compare with / Pure imagination."—*Max*

ALL GOOD STUFF

I noticed that you didn't include Mactracker in "iPod Superpowers," (Feb/05, p18), yet Mactracker is one of the most helpful utilities for Macs, PCs, and iPods. It has information about every Mac, 'Pod, and peripheral Apple ever made—clones, too. And it's free; you can get it at www.mactracker.ca.—*Christopher*

Agreed. Available for both Macs and iPods, Mactracker is a one of our most prized editorial resources.—*Max*

TO FORGIVE, DIVINE

In "To Err Is Human," (Feb/05, p79), you mentioned a Mac OS X Disk Utility typo about umounting disks. However, *umount* is the *nix command for *umounting* a drive, so it's likely that the programmer simply forgot that most Mac users (sob) never interact with OS X's glorious BSD Unix underpinnings.—*Benjy Messner*

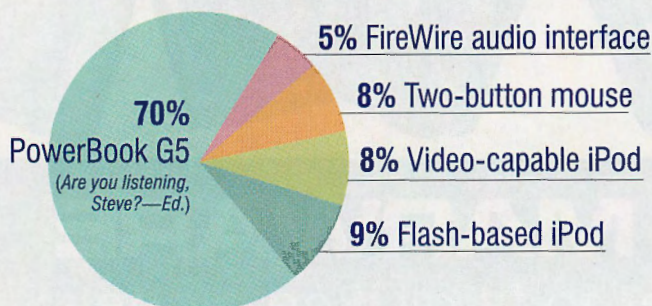
FREE IS GOOD

I just want to say what a useful and valuable (cost-saving) article "The Best Things in Life Are Free" (Jan/05, p26) was. I had been afraid of X11 and the Unix world until you wrote a clear and user-friendly way to obtain and use open-source software. I've installed Gimp and find it has more features than Photoshop Elements 2—I even got Gimp-Print by myself.—*Marcus Little*

Survey Says

Here are the results of our December 2004 survey. Check out www.macaddict.com each month for a new online poll.

What did you most hope to see Apple announce at January's Expo?



1,093 respondents

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PEDANTRYWISE

In issue number 102, page 37, the second paragraph starts with a word you guys made up: "convenience-wise." No such word. Should have been two words.—*L. James Stock III*
I have two words for you, LJSIII: Get a life. What? That's three? Never mind.—*Max*

FILES INSIDE?

What else could a man ask for his 59th birthday? Tina Hulbert made her Apple-geek husband a real chocolate PowerBook cake, complete with an Apple logo and QWERTY keyboard.—*Richard Hulbert*
There must be a byte pun here somewhere, but I can't seem to find it.—*Max*



Programmed in Cocoa?

I'M LOVIN' IT

While visiting Paris last summer, I came across a McDonald's that had iPods throughout the restaurant. Enclosed is a picture of one of the listing stations. Way cool, Mickey D!—*Steve Ryan*
Did it play *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un royale avec du fromage*?—*Max*



Want pommes frites with that?

NOMENCLATURAL ORTHOGRAPHY

I enjoyed your review of *The Cult of the Mac* (Jan/05, p15). One problem: You misspelled the author's last name—it's Kahney.—*Patricia Witkin*
Argh! You'd think a staff with Niko Coucouvanis and Rik Myslewski might be more sensitive to name-spelling issues. Sorry.—*Max*

WIN!

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Deadline for entry: April 30, 2005. Contest results will appear in our Aug/05 issue.

Contest Rules The judges will be MacAddict editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than April 30, 2005, with the winner announced around August 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. If two or more people enter identical winning captions, the entry received first will be awarded the contest prize. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

Winner!

Congrats to Michael Milauskas, who won Adobe Creative Suite Premium Edition with Expert Support package (\$1,458, www.adobe.com) and Microsoft Office 2004 Standard Edition (\$399, www.microsoft.com).



Scotty: "Captain, you canno' mix Apple and Anti-Apple! The ship'll explode!"

iPod shuffle (2006?)

Informed sources inform us that Apple engineers are reeling from criticism that the recently released iPod shuffle lacks an LCD to identify the song being played. In response, the deeply discomfited designers speedily readied a prototype of the next-generation iPod shuffle, to be unveiled at the January 2006 Mac Expo.

The new shuffle will be a masterpiece of multifunctional utility, answering the song-identification challenge with equal parts brio, panache, and élan. Rather than incorporating a pedestrian, me-too LCD screen, iPod shuffle '06 will feature a pleasingly retro Dymo Label Maker-style tape embosser that will disgorge a plastic strip with the song's title displayed in Dymo's familiar all-caps raised lettering; the adhesive-backed tape can then be affixed to your wrist while jogging or Stair Mastering, thus allowing you to chronicle your listening pleasure.

In another stunning stroke of only-in-Cupertino brilliance, the tape will emerge from a USB 2.0 port that doubles as a USB hub when you insert the iPod shuffle '06 into your Mac. Elegance and utility—another Apple triumph!



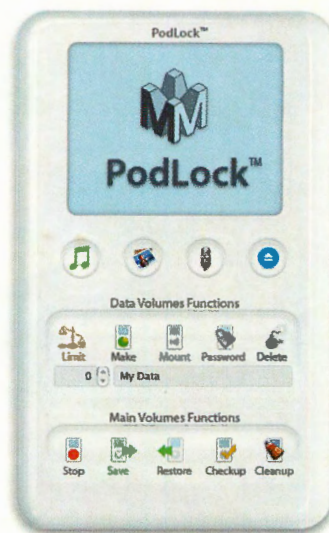
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